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Some Annals of the Lambs:
A Border Family

Some Annals of the Lambs: A Border Family



E. G. Lamb

Privately Printed

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Preface

THERE are two reasons for collecting the annals of a family having no claim to fame. There is in the first place a strong family feeling which brings with it a desire to enrich the present by the past, and to throw light on the origins of character and capacity. Or there may be keen interest in the manners and customs of former times on which any authentic records throw vivid light.

It was the first of these reasons that caused Edmund Lamb, shortly after his marriage, to start investigating parish registers, wills, and family letters, in order to collect what records he could of the Lamb family and its collaterals. The work then lay fallow during the active years of his life, but at the quiet end he and his Secretary, Miss Burne, started putting it together. The results are embodied in the following pages, though he did not live to supervise personally the whole. They are of necessity fragmentary, though care has been taken to make the actual pedigrees as full as possible.

Family letters have helped materially to give some idea of the flavour and very distinct personality that characterises this Border family, culminating in the two Joseph Lambs, father and son, and in the younger Joseph's youngest son, R. O. Lamb. The records cease with the marriage of his eldest son, Richard Lamb, with Georgiana Eaton, though a short life is appended of the originator of the work—Edmund Lamb.

My thanks are due in the first place and in large measure to Kathleen Burne, who gave Edmund Lamb invaluable help in collecting, collating and preparing the material for publication. I would like specially to mention her work on the pedigrees which has been both arduous and able.

In the second place, I would thank Alfred Ollivant for reading the text and giving valuable criticisms and suggestions. To the relations and friends who lent letters and gave information the work is greatly indebted.

MABEL LAMB

Borden Wood

Contents

Preface	<i>page</i> vii
Memoir of Edmund Lamb	xiii
CHAP.	
I. The Original Family at the Riddings	I
II. Later Lambs of Riddings	8
III. The Lambs of Kirklington	16
IV. The Lambs of Seathill	19
V. The Lambs of Kilesykehill	25
VI. The Lambs of Ryton: Joseph Lamb the Elder	32
VII. The Lambs of Ryton: Joseph Lamb as a Business Man	44
VIII. The Lambs of Ryton: Joseph Lamb's Descendants	55
IX. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Youth (1781-1824)	65
X. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Married Life (1824-54)	76
XI. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Later Life (1854-59)	86
XII. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Business Life	103
XIII. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Public Life	115
XIV. The Lambs of Axwell Park: after 1859	128

List of Illustrations

Edmund George Lamb, 1863-1925	<i>facing page</i> xiii
Tombstones in Irthington Churchyard	16
Tombstone of Richard and Alice Lamb: Irthington Church- yard	19
Seat Hill	20
Facsimile of Signature of Richard Lamb of Kilesykehill	25
Ryton Hall	32
Facsimile of Account between Joseph and Richard Lamb	38
Inscription on Family Vault, Ryton	42
Humble Lamb, 1773-1844	55
Charles John Lamb: Youngest Son of Humble Lamb	58
Joseph Lamb the Younger, 1781-1859	65
Joseph Lamb with Two of His Children	76
Amelia, Wife of Joseph Lamb, with Three of Their Children	80
Richard Westbrook Lamb, 1826-95	88
Georgiana Elizabeth Lamb: Wife of Richard Westbrook Lamb	96
Charles Ormston Eaton: Brother-in-law of Richard Westbrook Lamb	98
Signatures of Partners in Northumberland Glass Company	103
Axwell Park	128
Gibside Hall	130
Robert Ormston Lamb, 1836-1912	132

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Memoir of Edmund Lamb	xiii
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III. The Lambs of Kirklington	16
IV. The Lambs of Seathill	19
V. The Lambs of Kilesykehill	25
VI. The Lambs of Ryton: Joseph Lamb the Elder	32
VII. The Lambs of Ryton: Joseph Lamb as a Business Man	44
VIII. The Lambs of Ryton: Joseph Lamb's Descendants	55
IX. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Youth (1781-1824)	65
X. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Married Life (1824-54)	76
XI. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Later Life (1854-59)	86
XII. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Business Life	103
XIII. Joseph Lamb the Younger: Public Life	115
XIV. The Lambs of Axwell Park: after 1859	128

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Tombstones in Irthington Churchyard	16
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Ryton Hall	32
Facsimile of Account between Joseph and Richard Lamb	38
Inscription on Family Vault, Ryton	42
Humble Lamb, 1773-1844	55
Charles John Lamb: Youngest Son of Humble Lamb	58
Joseph Lamb the Younger, 1781-1859	65
Joseph Lamb with Two of His Children	76
Amelia, Wife of Joseph Lamb, with Three of Their Children	80
Richard Westbrook Lamb, 1826-95	88
Georgiana Elizabeth Lamb: Wife of Richard Westbrook Lamb	96
Charles Ormston Eaton: Brother-in-law of Richard Westbrook Lamb	98
Signatures of Partners in Northumberland Glass Company	103
Axwell Park	128
Gibside Hall	130
Robert Ormston Lamb, 1836-1912	132



EDMUND GEORGE LAMB, 1863-1925

Memoir of Edmund Lamb

EDMUND LAMB, who instigated the collection of these annals, and authorized the publication of them, was born in Dublin on July 8th, 1863, the fourth child and second surviving son of Richard Lamb and Georgiana Eaton, his wife. He was educated at the Oratory School, when Cardinal Newman was Head, and passed from there to Merton College, Oxford, where he took an Honours degree in history. A man of very varied tastes and activities, he worked at chemistry under Sir William Ramsay after leaving college, and while companioning his father in London. The old house in Great Cumberland Place where they lived was never a home, though it was served by the old family retainers and enlivened by generations of Dandy Dinmonts. But the summers were the happy times, spent in shooting and fishing at Heppel, a wild but charming sporting estate rented from Sir John Riddell. There his beloved younger brother Dick used to join him, and father and sons and relations and friends spent long days with gun and dogs or fishing-rods.

Travel also relieved the tedium of London. While at college, Edmund had visited Ceylon with his father. After college he travelled on horse-back in Syria with his eldest brother Stephen, and made at least one visit to Egypt with the friend who ultimately became his brother-in-law.

Edmund Lamb was a member of the Chemical and Geographical Societies and the Society of Mining Engineers.

All this time he and his father took great interest in their colliery properties and the farms lying above the coal in Northumberland. When he had had some experience of the work, Edmund joined his father as Director of Seaton Delaval Colliery.

At the age of thirty he married Mabel Winkworth, daughter of

Stephen Winkworth and granddaughter of Thomas Thomasson, a friend of Cobden and Bright. Four years after his marriage he bought the house and small estate at Borden Wood in the county of Sussex, which became his permanent and much loved home.

He was essentially a home-loving man. For him his family came first. Very loyal to the past (hence his strong desire to gather family records and put them in permanent form), he was loyal also to his ideals in the present, as husband and father.

Now, with wife and child, farm, woods for shooting and fields for his horses, he was well content. His new neighbours were puzzled by his luggage. When his many books arrived they put him down as a student; and when a string of horses followed they put him down as a horsey man. In both suppositions they were right; he was a student and a sportsman, a fine shot and a good rider to hounds; and through it all ran his idealization of home and its ritual. Each event of those very peaceful days was made golden by his joy in the daily round. A lambent, whimsical humour radiated from him and made him good to work with and to serve. Life, even when monotonous, was never dull, because the spirit of romance entered in and took possession.

After the death of his brother Dick—which after his father's death was his great grief—he bought in Dick's brood mares and became for a short time a breeder of race-horses, which he ran with some success and much enjoyment.

When he entered Parliament in 1906 as Liberal member for North Herefordshire, racing had to be given up; but it was still of use, for a friend and namesake, Ernest Lamb, another Liberal, said to him: "Edmund, you have gained me a vote. A Conservative in my constituency came to tell me he had voted for me 'as,' he said, 'a man who runs such good horses must be a good fellow'."

To sit in Parliament had always been a half unconscious but very real ambition. There was romance in walking into the stately precincts, the way being made clear by a friendly policeman across the crowded streets. There was delightful intercourse with many keen young spirits who formed part of that wonderful Parliament in 1906.

It had been a little difficult to find a seat for Edmund Lamb, a Catholic and Liberal, but finally he and the Liberal Association of North Herefordshire took to each other. It had been considered a Tory stronghold, but his steady work for a year and a half and the flowing tide of Liberalism in 1906, brought him in with a majority of twenty-eight. When a member, he managed to be a friend of both farmers and labourers. He was a keen farmer himself and always went out on Market days to have a talk with his friends.

With the labourers he knew how to talk because he enjoyed their society and racy wisdom. It was a Free Trade election, and he prepared his speeches carefully so as to give real enlightenment on the question as he understood it; this they all appreciated, saying how much his words gave them to take away and think about. There was sorrow when at the Election of 1910 the constituency returned to its old allegiance, but the many friendships remained. Fifteen years after I realized how vivid was their memory of, and their affection for, him. As someone said, his name was one to conjure with. The Secretary of the Midland Liberal Federation wrote me of "the remarkable place he gained in the hearts of the people. The Liberals of the Division measure everybody who comes to them as candidate by the very high standard which he set."

After leaving Parliament he was asked to stand for the County Council of West Sussex, and was returned for the Rogate Division. It was not Parliament, and at first seemed tame, but he threw himself into the work and year by year enjoyed it more, serving his county as he had served his constituency, and like a faithful servant writing an account of his yearly work for his electors. That and his family life and intercourse with his people filled his days.

He helped to found the Iping and District Horticultural Society which he hoped would bring all the people of a scattered parish together, and when first an increasing fatigue, and then the disease that laid him low, found him out, it could not quench his interest in all the local life: he insisted on attending both local Horticultural Society meetings to see his village friends, and in taking part in family life as far as strength allowed. "We have had a happy

summer " was his own verdict, but his daughter had to take his place and give his message at his Harvest Home in October, which he wished should be held as usual. It was there a farmer friend told us how they all came to him with their joys and their sorrows, and later I learned he was called by many " The Father of the valley."

CHAPTER I

The Original Family at the Riddings

THE earliest Lamb of whom we have any definite record is David Lamb of “the Riddings within the Parish of Arthuret,” whose will was made on December 28th, 1625, and proved May 5th, 1626. The Riddings was a small hamlet in the north-western corner of Cumberland, close to the Scottish border, and is of some historical interest, as Prince Charles Edward slept there in 1745—it may even have been in the house of the later Lambs of Riddings. In William Whellan’s *History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland*, we read: “In the more formidable rebellion of 1745, these counties were chosen as the line of march of the Pretender into England. The Pretender left Kelso on the 6th of November; and, after making a demonstration as though he would enter Northumberland, in order to deceive General Wade, who was at Newcastle, he crossed the Esk on the 9th near Longtown, and entered Cumberland, passing that night at a place called Reddings on the road to Carlisle. Having assembled his whole army here on the 10th, he continued his march.”*

David Lamb’s will runs as follows:—

In the name of God Amen the XXVIIIth daie of December 1625. I David Lambe of the Riddings within the parish of Arthuret, sicke in bodie but whole in mind . . . doe make this my last will and testament.

First I comit my soule into the hands of Almightye God my Creator and redeemer, and my bodie to be buried in the parish Churchyard of Arthuret.

Item I give unto my daughter Isabell one kow called Cherrie tagge and an other Cow called yong garrie, one red stot aged sixe quarters old, one blacke lopped whie with calfe and sixe Ewes; the lambes of wch Ewes I give unto twoe litle boies of my sonne Williames.

* William Whellan’s *History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland*, page 21.

Item I give unto my sonne James one gaived Kow with a gaived ox Cowdey and twoe Ewes.

Item I give unto Richard my sonne one Cow called yong Cherrie tagge, and her owne branded why Cowdey and two ewes.

Item I give unto my foresaid sonnes James and Richard, one stot wch is with my sonne Williame equally betweene them.

Item I give unto George my sonne one red Kow called Coppie and one branded whie.

Item I give unto Thomas my sonne X 1s. to be paid him out of my Croppe of Corne, and two Ewes whose lambes when they fall I give unto his sonne Arthure.

Item I give unto my nephew John lambe sonne to Arthur lambe four hogges and one blacke beld stot.

Item I give unto Jaine my daughter wife to Thomas grame twoe Ewes.

Item I give unto my nephew Williame lambe twoe Ewes.

Item I give unto my sonne Williame lambe one broune stoupheaded Kow in his owne possession.

Item I give unto my son David one old graie meare and one graie nagge, one red Kow called litle Cherrie and foure ewes and twoe hogges, whereof three lambes of the said ewes when they fall I give unto three Children of my sonne Francis, and the fourth to paie the tieth.

Item I leave unto his Lordship for a heriot one red brand locked Cow.*

Item I apoint Andrew Atkinson and Thomas Elliot to divide the Ewes hogges and lambes among the parties aforesaid to avoide contention.

Item one branded why with calfe of Margret Lambes my grandchild I ordaine to be delivered free unto Arche Johnston for the use of the said margret.

Item my funerall expenses, legacies and other debts discharged, all the rest of my goods and Catles I give unto my sonne David Lambe whom I make executor.

Wit. Andrew Atkinson

Thomas Elliot

Arche Johnston

John Wardma.

Proved 5 May 1626 by the exor.

From his will, this David Lamb appears to have been a farmer: the greater part of the property bequeathed is stock—chiefly cows—and there is also the legacy to be paid “out of my crophe of corn.” We gather that he was an old man when he made his will, as he refers to several grandchildren, and that his wife was dead, as no reference is made to her.

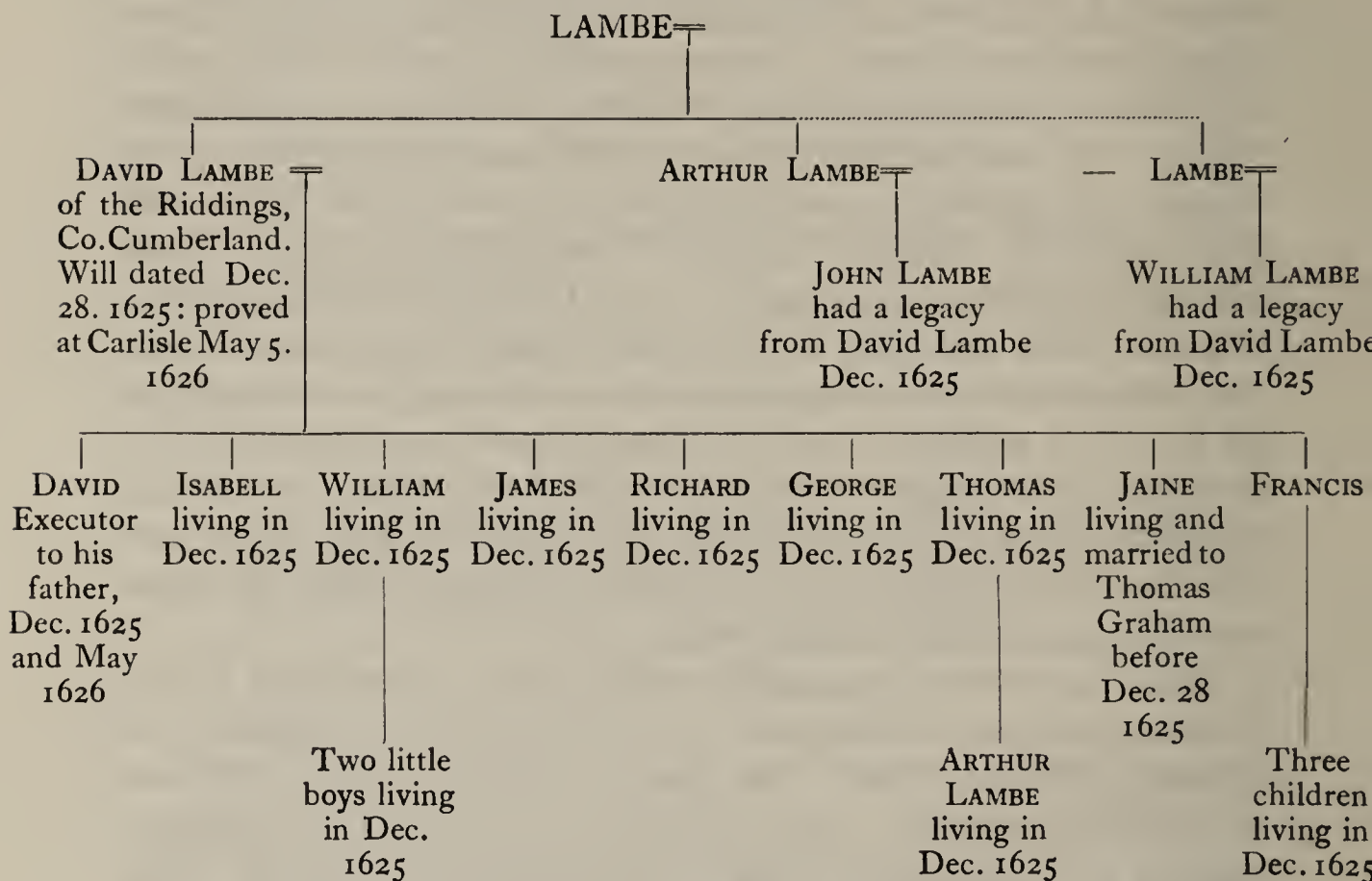
* Probably this refers to the then Graham of Netherby.

We gather that David Lamb was the eldest son (since he is made executor and residuary legatee), and there were other sons: William (who had two little boys), James, Richard, George, Thomas (who had a son, Arthur), and Francis (who had three children); there were also two daughters, Isabell, apparently unmarried, and Jaine, who was married to Thomas Grame. Francis himself receives no legacy. It seems probable, therefore, that he had died prior to the making of the will; for if he had been disinherited owing to a quarrel, his children would hardly have been given legacies. No guardians are appointed by David Lamb in his will, and there is no "tuition" granted, from which it is fairly certain that all his children were of age in 1625. Therefore assuming that his youngest child was born in 1605, and noting that he had at least nine children, and allowing two years to each child (the average), we get a total of eighteen years. His own probable age at the birth of his eldest child might be twenty-five, and this brings the date of his birth to somewhere about the year 1562. He may easily have been born before this date, as the above estimate makes no allowance for other children dying young.

There is another grandchild besides those mentioned in the previous paragraph (unless she is one of the "three children" of Francis)—Margret Lamb. The passage referring to her in the will is somewhat obscure: "one branded why with calfe of Margret Lambes my grandchild I ordaine to be delivered free unto Arche Johnston for the use of the said margret." This paragraph occurs after all the other legacies have been given, and *after* Andrew Atkinson and Thomas Elliot have been appointed to make the division. The "why with calfe" evidently already belonged to Margret Lamb, and is merely mentioned in order to ensure it being safely delivered to her and not counted with the residue of the estate. There is nothing to show for what reason Arche Johnston was to receive it for her—perhaps she was about to be married to him—neither is there anything to show who her father was.

The other individuals mentioned are two nephews, "my nephew John Lambe sonne to Arthur lambe," and "my nephew William

lambe.” David Lamb had therefore certainly one brother, Arthur, and possibly a second brother, though William might also have been Arthur’s son. From the fact that he names John Lamb as son to Arthur, it is possible that he had another nephew of the same Christian name; and this also implies that he had other brothers.



There are allusions in the *Calendar of Border Papers* to a William Lambe about this period, who is probably related to David Lamb of the Riddings. They run as follows:—

Vol. II, page 138. 1596 June 16. Answer by William Grame of Mote.
He denies spoiling any of the Queen’s tenants “on Liddell side about the Riddings.” William Lambe has not served the defendant “these 7 yeres, but almost these 2 yeres,” he has lived in Scotland amongst “the theves of the Herlaw.”

Vol. II, page 141. 1596 (c. June 19).* Articles to be charged against the Grames before the Lords of the Privy Council.

* So dated by the editor, but the correct date is evidently antecedent to the above extract, which is an answer to the plaint here given.

“ William Grame of the Mott . . . keeps as servants one William Lambe and Davye Richison, common and notorious spoilers of the Queen’s subjects. About Michaelmas last, Willie of the Mott was at the *herishipp* of one Richison of Barnehurst upon Kinge water when he murdered a Richison, Lambe, Davye Richison and Wolsay were with him, and that night he lay at Askerton, Thomas Carleton’s house.”

Vol. II, page 687. 1600 Sept. 15. The Misdemeanours of the Grames (a long indictment).

Article 9. “ They reset and maintain these common spoilers, viz. William Lambe, etc.”

William Lambe was evidently connected with the Riddings district, and is possibly David’s brother: he may have been the father of David’s nephew, William. We have no record of his burial in any of the parish registers, but in this connection we may repeat a border anecdote which has been told more than once, and relates especially to the parish of Bewcastle. A stranger visiting that place was surprised to find that the tombstones in the churchyard commemorated none but females, and he made a remark to that effect to the old lady who accompanied him as a guide. “ Oh, sir,” she replied feelingly, “ they’re a’ buried at that weary Caerl!” In the sequel, the astonished inquirer learnt that no male inhabitant of that district was known to have ended his days otherwise than being hanged at Carlisle.* It seems exceedingly probable from the little we know of William Lambe that he met his end in the customary manner!

It is possible, however, that he was deported with the Grahams, in whose train he evidently followed. Whellan, in speaking of the depredations of this clan, whose chief dwelt at Netherby, says: “ These depredations had been carried on with unusual boldness during the later years of the reign of Elizabeth, and, as they were not checked by the proclamations of her successor, King James determined to put an end to them in a summary manner, by the expulsion of the whole clan. An assessment was made on the County of Cumberland, in 1606, to defray the expenses of what was termed in those

* William Whellan’s *History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland*, page 18.

days the "transplantation" of this clan, who were embarked at Workington, and sent partly to Ireland and partly to the Netherlands. The love of their old country seems to have been still powerful with the banished Grames, and some of them ventured to return, and a proclamation for apprehending them appeared in 1614. Nevertheless, some of the branches of this clan had been allowed to remain, no doubt on account of their more peaceful behaviour; and Richard Graham, of Esk, was created a baronet in 1629, and purchased Netherby and the Barony of Liddell.* William Lambe may therefore have ended his days in Ireland or the Netherlands: at any rate we hear no more of him. The above note is of interest, not only in view of William Lambe's connection with the Grahams, but because of the fairly frequent inter-marriages between Lambs and Grahams at later dates.

From the Riddings family it is probable that all the various Lamb families in North Cumberland are descended, though proof is so far lacking, owing to the defective state of the old Parish Registers and other official documents for that County. This may be at any rate partly due to the unsettled state of the Border counties during the Civil Wars. "Both Cumberland and Westmoreland were reduced to great distress by the ravages of the Scots during the expedition of the Duke of Hamilton (1648). The petitions of the inhabitants of the former county, when seeking to be eased of the burthen of supporting the garrison of Carlisle after the expulsion of the Scots, complained that families of the first quality had hardly bread enough for their own consumption, with nothing to drink but water; that people died of starvation in the public roads; and that there were in the county of Cumberland no less than thirty thousand families who had neither seed nor bread corn, and who were entirely without money to buy them. The Parliament ordered a collection to be made for their relief."† The Protestation Rolls‡ of 1641-2, how-

* William Whellan's *History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland*, page 19.

† William Whellan, *ibid.*, page 21.

‡ These rolls were complete lists of the male inhabitants over eighteen years of age of every parish in England, all of whom were supposed to take an oath of loyalty

ever, are very complete, and contain only five Lambs in the Parish of Kirkandrews-on-Esk (David, James, John, Fergus, James), three in Arthuret (Thomas, George, John), and three at Kirklington (Richard, John and Thomas). Of these, David and James of Kirkandrews,* and Thomas and George of Arthuret, are almost certainly the sons of David Lamb, referred to in his will, and Richard of Kirklington is probably another. John of Kirkandrews is probably the nephew John referred to by name in his will; and Fergus and the second James of Kirkandrews, and John of Arthuret, are probably the nephews or grandsons, and almost certainly relations. This leaves only John and Thomas at Kirklington, and they are quite possibly nephews or grandsons also. There seems no doubt, therefore, that all the North Cumberland Lambs spring from this original stock at the Riddings, who probably drifted across the borders from Scotland.

to Charles I. These oaths were taken at the end of February or beginning of March 1641-2, most of them on March 2nd or 3rd. In some cases a list is given of those refusing to take the oath. In the Kirklington list occurs the entry: "These whose names followeth non ptestans. Edward Grame de Miltowne a suspected Recusant but a pore old sickle man." There is an attractive touch of humanity in this: evidently the clergyman of the parish, or other administrator of the oath, wished to shield the "pore old sickle man" from any ill consequences of his refusal to swear.

* Here as elsewhere Kirkandrews always means Kirkandrews-upon-Esk, not Kirkandrews-upon-Eden.

CHAPTER II

Later Lambs of Riddings

THE first links connecting the original Riddings family with the various Lamb families are missing, but we can surmise from internal evidence which group probably sprang from which member of the original family.

I. Beginning with the eldest son David:

He is probably the father of the later "David Lamb of Riddings," from whom are descended several of the Lamb groups. They remained near the Border, chiefly at Kirkandrews, Arthuret and Longtown on the English side, and Canonbie on the Scotch, and intermarried with various Scotch families. They followed humble callings, being husbandmen, weavers, innkeepers, mail-coach-drivers, shoemakers, etc., but were evidently people of importance in their villages, as they appear in the Parish Registers as Churchwardens from time to time. From this group are descended the Lambs of Brampton. Mr. Isaac Lamb of Townfoot, Brampton (great-grandson of John Lamb of Hill Top and Windy Hill, who married Margaret Millican of Hope's House, Solport, in 1785, see pedigree), says that his father told him that John Lamb "was a farm servant at Moss-side, Solport, where he met his future wife, Miss Millican, and having saved a little money out of his scanty earnings, together with either a gift or a legacy from his father, he purchased Hill Top, where he appears to have spent the whole of his married life, and since that time Hill Top has been in the possession of the Lambs, the present owner being my brother William. . . . He says that Hill Top was purchased by our great-grandfather from a man named Hall, who appears to have been a fairly large landowner in Stapleton at that time." Mr. Robert Wrigley of Brampton says: "John Lamb was a tall fine-looking man, wore knee breeches, and was very similar in appearance to John Lamb of Kilesykehill, his kinsman. . . . He and his wife were 'partner servants' at Moss-

side with the Irwin family, and being industrious both before and after marriage, were in their old age the possessors of three small estates " (probably Hill Top, Sike Head, and Windy Hill, all of which appear to have belonged to this branch of the Lambs from about that date), and, speaking of him and his descendants he states that they " were good farmers and very noted ploughmen." Of the marriage of James Lamb of Bleatarn, grandson of John Lamb of Hill Top, to Mary Hall, there is a picturesque legend. He was apparently in his youth something of a ne'er-do-well and addicted to drink, and Mary Hall's father wanted her to marry a rich American. James Lamb, hearing of this, swam the river, which flowed beneath Mary's window and was in flood at the time, and called up to her: " Will you marry the American —, or the drunken tramp, James Lamb? " Mary having replied that she would marry James Lamb, he persuaded her to go with him to Gretna Green and be married there.

II. William Lamb, who is described in his father's will in 1625 as having " twoe little boies," is probably the ancestor of the large group of Lambs living just over the Border in the Scotch village of Ewes, some of whom came south again to Kirkandrews in later generations, and some to Carlisle, where at least two of them, Richard and George, were calico-printers at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

III. The most likely ancestor among the sons of David Lamb for the Gillalees group of Lambs seems to be James. The first definite information we have about this group is contained in the wills of three brothers, David, William, and John Lamb, who died within ten years of each other (1687-1697), each leaving a will. William and John refer to their children by name. Each had a son called James, and John's son, James, was one of his father's executors, and therefore probably his eldest son. The internal evidence therefore points to the three brothers being probably the sons of James. Moreover we have in this case a small piece of external evidence. At the time of the making of the Protestation Rolls, 1641-2, James Lamb was still living at Kirkandrews. In the Hearth Tax Rolls of 1662 he has

disappeared from Kirkandrews, but a James Lamb suddenly appears at Askerton, which is close to Gillalees where David and John were living a little later, and lies between Gillalees and Upper Denton, where the third brother, William, lived. It seems natural to suppose, therefore, that James Lamb moved from Kirkandrews to Askerton in later life, between the years 1642 and 1662, and founded the branch of the Lamb family afterwards living in that neighbourhood.

David Lamb's will runs as follows:—

May the 29th 1687. I David Lambe of Gillalees in the Parish of Leonardcost and in the County of Cumberland, yeoman, sick in body but whole in mind. . . .

I give and bequeath my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my Creator Hoping to receive free pardon and remission of all my sins through the meritorious death and passion of Christ Jesus my Redeemer and my Body to be buried in the parish Church yard of Stapleton at the Discretion of Executrix heereafter appointed.

Item. I leave to my brother William Lambe of Maynes a browne filly two years old.

Item. I leave to my brother John's son William Lambe a two years old colt pasturing on the wast.

Item. I leave to every the nearest of my Relations twelve pence a piece. (Then follows a list of debts owing by and to the Testator.)

Lastly the rest of my Goods and Chatles Leases, &c., I Leave to Elizabeth my wife whom I make sole Executrix.

DAVID LAMBE.

Wit. Archibald Armstrong

Thomas Litle

(Seal)

John Barnfather

Probate granted 9 July 1687 to Eliz. Lamb, widow and executrix.

From this will we gather that David Lamb was a yeoman: that he died in the year 1687, between May 29th and July 9th: that his wife was still living on July 9th, 1687, since probate was granted to her on that date; and that probably David had no children living on May 29th, 1687, when the will was made. We may also infer that he was a man of some education, as his signature is very clearly

written

David Lamb

The document has

a red wax seal on it, of which this is a copy, about double the size of the original.



Another small point to notice is that his largest debt was to "Sybbell Litle of Arthureth," which shows that he had some connection with the Riddings district of the county.

William Lamb's will runs as follows:—

I William Lambe of the Maines in the Parish of Uppper Denton and County of Cumberland make my last Will and Testament . . . as followeth . . . my body to be buried in decent and Christian manner.

Ite. I leave my youngest daughter Elizabeth four Cowes and two Quyes and to be in the Tuition of her mother and in case the said childe dye before it shall come to age the said four Cowes and two Quyes shall redound to her mothers proper use.

Ite. I leave my daughter Margrett Lambe twenty pounds to be payd unto her upon the first day of August which shall be in ye year of God one thousand six hundred ninety and nine, and likewise a bedsteed and bedding of cloaths and twenty shillings to help to buy her Insight.

Ite. I leave my son John Lambe sixteen pounds to be payd unto him upon the first day of August wch shall fall and be in the year of God One thousand seven hundred and two, and in case the said John Lambe and his brother William my Executor shall disagree and refuse to give him a quies maintanance, He said William Lambe shall pay unto the said John Lambe two shillings p. pound for the said fifteen pounds till the said John Lambes ("shall come to" erased) full ("yeares" erased) portion shall be payable.

Ite. If any of the said three children William Margrett and John shall dye the said legacies shall fall to the survivors.

Ite. I leave my son James one halfe of the Lowfeild at the yearly rent of four pounds and ten shillings paying the sixth part of all dues and duties belongin to the Leese of the Mains with the Summer pasturage of three Cows and one horse dureing the term of the sayd Leese with the hott-house and the Tanfats and pitts and the garth as a Legacy.

Ite. I leave my daughter Mary and her husband five shillings.

Ite. I leave my son William to be my full and sole Executor of all the Rest of my goods . . . allowing my wife one bedding of Cloaths.

. this sixteenth day of December 1697.

Wit. Thomas Hetherington

WILL LAMBE

William Bell

(Seal)

Ri. Culcheth.

Probate granted at Carlisle 19 Feb. 1697 to William Lamb the son and executor.

Inv. 1697 (no other date)

Goods and Chattells (set out) 112. 0. 0.

Debts due to W. Lamb 30. 19. 10.

Debts owing by W. Lambe—

Funerall Expences 02. 18. 01.

to Mr. Wiltshire 40. 00. 00.

to John Sowerby 10. 00. 00.

to James Lamb 13. 10. 00.

to my L^d Carlisle 12. 10. 00.

servants wages 4. 15. 6.

to Margrett Lambe 21. 00. 00.

to John Lamb 16. 00. 00.

to Mary Armstrong 00. 05. 00.

to Mr. Blenkinsopp 01. 06. 06.

to Jeffery Bulman 06. 08. 06.

sume 125. 13. 06.

Jurat William Bell

Totall free 37. 7. 00.

Tho; Hetherington

James Lamb.

From the will we gather that William Lamb leased a property at The Maines, a hamlet in the parish of Upper Denton, and had a "hotthouse" and "tanfats" and "pitts" and a "garth." He was presumably therefore a tanner. He must also have been a man of good position, as he employed servants. Like his brother David, William signs his will quite legibly, though in a more shaky hand.

Will Lamb

William Lamb was the ancestor of the Lambs who lived at Farlam Hall in the eighteenth century, of the Lambs who were calico-printers in Carlisle, and probably of the Lambs who suddenly appear at Reading in Berkshire in 1775.

William's great-grandson, Henry Lamb, who married Ann Donald on June 25th, 1781, at St. Mary's, Carlisle, is described in the Carlisle Marriage Bond as a "callico-printer" of Caldewgate, Carlisle. The Lambs and the Donalds at this date were engaged in the calico-printing trade at Carlisle. "In 1761 calico-printing was introduced (in Carlisle) by a firm from Newcastle, Scott, Lamb & Co., induced thereto by the good qualities of the waters of the Caldew, which were remarkable for their powers of bleaching white. This business flourished greatly and much improved the condition of the poorer classes in Carlisle. The expense of carrying the calicoes from Lancashire to Carlisle to be printed soon induced the establishment of cotton looms; and about 1796 there were several cotton-spinning firms in Carlisle, of which the Forsters and the Fergusons were the chief; while there were four print-fields—those of Messrs. Lamb, Scott, Forsters & Co.; Losh & Co.; Mitchell, Ellwood & Co.; and Donald, Carrick, Shaw & Co."* "As manufactories began to flourish in Carlisle, and commenced to take a firm root, trade facilities were demanded, which had not before existed, viz. banking facilities, and facilities for better communication with the outer world. In 1761, when Scott, Lamb & Co. started calico-printing in Carlisle, once every fortnight the Carlisle partner rode, pistols at his saddle-bow, to the 'Twice Brewed' public, near the Roman Wall; there the Newcastle partner met him, and the money to be disbursed for wages, or that which had been received for goods sold, was handed from one to the other."† As Scott, Lamb & Co. started calico-printing in Carlisle in 1761, there were evidently members of the family engaged in it before‡ Henry, who was then only thirteen years of age. The wills of Henry Lamb and his wife were proved at Carlisle in the year 1785.

* Bulman's *History and Directory of Cumberland*, 1901, p. 838.

† *Ibid.*, p. 840.

‡ See pp. 23, 53.

CHAPTER III

The Lambs of Kirklington

THE Lambs of Kirklington are the branch of the Lamb family with which we are chiefly concerned, as they are the direct ancestors of our family. It seems probable that the particular son of David Lamb of Riddings from whom they are descended is Richard, who received a legacy of "one Cow called yong Cherrie tagge, and her owne branded why Cowdey and two ewes" (p. 2). At the time of the making of the Protestation Rolls in March 1642 he has disappeared from the Kirkandrews district, but there is a Richard Lamb at Kirklington. He therefore probably moved to Kirklington between the years 1626 and 1641, and founded the branch of the family at that place. The fact that three out of four probable brothers at Kirklington had in the next generation each of them a son called Richard (the fourth had no son) tends to confirm this. We have unfortunately no actual proof, as the Parish Register of Kirklington is missing prior to 1665.

David Lamb of Kirklington, one of the four Lambs referred to above who were probably brothers, is known traditionally as "David Lamb of Seathill." He is so described on his tombstone at Irthington, and his children in Marriage Bonds, etc., are on several occasions described as of Seat Hill. He evidently therefore lived at Seathill, but the place was actually purchased by his son, Richard Lamb, from James Maxwell in 1718. There is also a tradition that David Lamb owned Temon in Cumberland. We first find him at Kirklington in the year 1680, having a son, David, baptized there. Between the years 1689 and 1693 he appears to have moved in the direction of Scaleby, which is about three miles from Kirklington and about four from Irthington, in which place he eventually settled. He was Churchwarden there in 1714. An old headstone* in Irthington Churchyard bears the inscription: "Here

* Mr. Robert Wrigley of Brampton says it is "a raised flat stone, locally called a 'thruff.' At the top a lamb is carved out. In its day it would be quite a grand stone."



TOMBSTONES IN IRTHINGTON CHURCHYARD

lieth David Lamb/ of Seathill who died February/27, 1719 Aged 68 years." This would be February 27th, 1720, on the modern system of reckoning. The Irthington Register, however, gives the date of his burial as April 30th, 1720. It is believed that the inscription on the headstone was renewed at one time. Probably the mason made an error in re-cutting the stone, and the date of death was really April 27th, 1720. David Lamb was sixty-eight when he died, and was therefore born circ. 1652. He appears to have had about twelve children, of whom Richard, afterwards of Seathill, was probably the fourth, the three elder children dying in infancy. Richard will be dealt with in the next chapter.

Of David's other sons, John, baptized on November 27th, 1689, at Kirklington, is interesting as being the first of the Lambs to become a member of the Society of Friends.* We know from the Coal Roll of the Barony of Gilsland for 1726 that he bought property in Laversdale from Thomas Bulman on June 29th, 1725. Later in the Roll we find a property, "Bulmans," belonging to "John Lamb Quaker," which may be the property above, and another property, "Gateside," also belonging to John Lamb. He seems therefore to have held several small properties in the neighbourhood, and at the time of his death he is described as of "Hole o' the Rigg in the parish of Irthington." He was buried on March 27th, 1772, according to the records of the Carlisle Meeting of the Society of Friends, in which his "residence" is given as Seathill. His will, which was proved on March 28th, 1772, runs as follows:—

I give to my well beloved Friends Adam Jackson of Farlem yeoman and John Scott of Upper high berries in the parish of Scaleby yeoman . . . all my Horses, Stock of Black Cattle, Sheep, &c. in trust to give to my grandson John Jackson

* "Borderer," who writes notes on local affairs in the *Carlisle Journal*, states (December 9th, 1913): "It is very amazing when one goes into the matter to find the number of landowning families who were members of the Quaker body in the north-east part of the Parish of Kirklington and in Stapleton. Practically the whole of the yeoman families in this district were 'Friends,' and from among them sprang some remarkable men, one of the most important being George Graham, the great clock and watch-maker, whose works, as his tomb-stone in Westminster Abbey says, 'do honour to ye British genius'."

all my Stock of Black Cattle, one Bedstead & Beding which I now lay on one Chare & my Clock & Table.

Also my Grand dau. Ruth Jackson my dresser, a cupboard, one Bedstead.

Also to my gran day. Mary Jackson one Ark and my long settle.

Also to my Grand dau. Elizabeth Jackson two Chests which stand in the Parler.

All the rest (my debts & funeral expences first paid) to my trusty friends Adam Jackson and John Scott whom I hereby appoint executors.

I give them five shillings apiece.

Dated 29 December 1770.

Witnesses John Hedrington, Wm. Irwing.

Christopher Lamb of Old Wall, whose baptism is missing, is almost certainly another of David Lamb's sons. He is described in his Marriage Bond as of Seathill, and there has always been a strong tradition in the family that the Lambs of Old Wall, of whom Christopher is the ancestor, were related to the Lambs of Seathill. He married on March 19th, 1732-3, at Irthington, Jane Taylor, daughter and heir of John Taylor of Old Wall, and thus through his marriage became possessed of property at Old Wall. In his Marriage Bond he is described as a yeoman, and at his burial at Irthington on July 31st, 1781, aged eighty-three, he is further described as a horse-dealer. There is a tombstone to his memory in Irthington Churchyard near the south-west corner of the church: "Here lieth the Body of/Christopher Lamb of the/Oldwall who Died July/the 28th 1781 Aged 82 years/O welcome Death that did such tidings bring/To make me equal with a Prince or King." Of Christopher's children, David went to Carlisle and became a calico-printer. George, the eldest son, appears to have remained at Old Wall all his life, carrying on his father's business as a horse-dealer. There are two deeds executed by him among the Lamb family papers kindly lent by Mr. T. H. B. Graham of Edmund Castle. The first is an indenture bearing date April 23rd, 1785, by which he agreed to pay off some mortgages on the occasion of his brother Christopher's bankruptcy and acquired the mortgaged properties, and the second is the mortgage of one of the pieces of land to his brother David of Carlisle on September 19th, 1787.



TOMBSTONE OF RICHARD AND ALICE LAMB:
IRTHINGTON CHURCHYARD

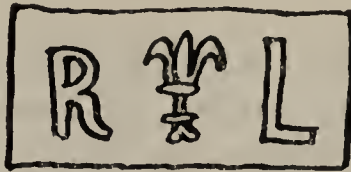
CHAPTER IV

The Lambs of Seathill

RICHARD LAMB, the eldest surviving son of David Lamb “of Seathill” (pp. 16 and 17), was baptized at Kirklington in 1685, and married on April 7th, 1716, at St. Cuthbert’s, Carlisle, Alice Graham, daughter of William Graham of Edmond Castle, and niece of Thomas Graham, the ancestor of the Grahams of Kirkstall. In the Carlisle Marriage Bond, dated April 4th, 1716, Richard Lamb is described as of Seathill, Irthington, yeoman, and Alice Graham as of Hayton. Wm. Boyd, Richardgate, yeoman, was bondsman. Alice Graham was baptized on January 31st, 1691-2, at Hayton, and is mentioned in the will of her brother, George Graham, in 1701, when he makes a bequest “to my sister Alice Graham ten-year-old Sheep.” She died on January 10th, 1779, aged ninety-one, and was buried at Irthington on January 12th. Richard Lamb must have been a strong man, as there is a tradition that he walked from Newcastle to Brampton in a day, carrying a horse’s saddle, etc., for a wager, about the year 1706. In 1718 he bought Seathill from James Maxwell for £250,* and in 1726 he also held Peatshall, which with Seathill passed to his son John. Richard Lamb died on December 20th, and was buried on December 22nd, 1746, at Irthington. The administration of effects of Richard Lamb, late of Seathill, yeoman, deceased intestate, was granted to Alice, his widow, on January 10th, 1746-7,

* In 1824 John Lamb Waugh bought an eleven acre field for £200, and there were other small purchases added. He also took over Pateshill from the Miles family by deeds dated June 7th and 8th, 1836, and the two properties in 1914 were let for rather over £300 a year together. Both properties were “customary held” of Lord Carlisle’s Manor of Laversdale and enfranchised. Pateshill was purchased by Richard Myles of Crooked Holme from Peter Mulcaster on March 31st, 1719. Richard Miles bought Blackgap (a field) from Mulcaster on March 16th, 1730, and there are no deeds between that date and 1836. The title-deeds of both Seathill and Pateshill were in the possession of Mr. E. L. Waugh, of the Burroughs, Cockermouth, in 1914, who also possessed the family Bibles of both, that of Seathill beginning with the marriage of Edward Waugh and Hannah Lamb in 1779.

at Carlisle. There is a headstone in Irthington Churchyard, north of the church, to the memory of Richard and Alice Lamb, with the monogram R.L. and fleur-de-lys used as a badge.



To the Memory of/Richard Lamb of/Seathill/who died December 20th/
1746. Aged 61/ Also Alice the Relict of the/above Richard Lamb of the/Seat-
hill who died Jan. the/10th 1779 aged 91 Years.

On the back of the stone:—

Be thou faithful/unto death/and I will give the/A Crown of Life.

The arms on the back of the tombstone are: In fess two pierced mullets between in chief a fleur-de-lys, and in base a rose. There is no crest. There is some charming eighteenth-century tracery round the shield.

John, Richard's eldest son, whose baptism is missing, was born circ. 1719. He married on January 28th, 1752, at Warcop, Hannah Fawcett, and in the Carlisle Marriage Bond is described as "of Seathill, Irthington, gentleman." Hannah Fawcett was the youngest child of William Fawcett of Sandford, Warcop, and his wife, Margaret Mattison. The Mattisons and the Lambs of Warcop intermarried several times, and although we can trace no connection between the Westmoreland and Cumberland Lambs, it is possible that there was a distant cousinship and that it was through the Westmoreland Lambs that John Lamb met the Mattisons and Fawcetts and his future wife. Seathill and Peatshall passed to John Lamb from his father. It is probable also that he is the "Mr. John Lamb" who purchased Peatshall (another property) from Thos. Hetherington, who had succeeded Wm. Hetherington, who had purchased it from John Stables. This property is mentioned in the Coal Roll for 1726 of the Barony of Gilsland, but the dates of the various transactions are not given. John Lamb had only one daughter



SEAT HILL

Hannah, through whom the Seathill Estate passed out of the Lamb family. He died on May 24th, 1784, and his wife, Hannah, on June 8th, 1797, and both were buried at Irthington. There is an altar stone in the churchyard, north of the church, to their memory: crest—on a wreath, a lamb passant: “To the Memory/of John Lamb of/Seathill who Died/May y^e 24th 1784 Aged 65/years/Also Hannah his Wife/died June y^e 8th 1797 Aged 84.” John Lamb’s will runs as follows:—

John Lamb of Seathill in the parish of Irthington, gentleman. I give and devise unto my Brother Joseph Lamb and to my friend John Mitchinson of Rickergate near the City of Carlisle all my freehold messuage and tenement with appurtenances lying and being at Seathill, also all my freehold messuage and my lands at Dikesyeat in the parish of Scaleby and all other my freehold messuages lying in the parishes of Irthington and Scaleby aforesaid to hold the same upon trust that they shall from time to time during the life of my Daughter Hannah the Wife of Edward Waugh pay and apply the yearly rents unto the proper hands of my dau. Hannah for her own use exclusive of the present or any after taken Husband who shall not intermeddle therewith . . . after her death remainder to first son lawfully issuing . . . then to all and every other son lawfully begotten. . . In default to daughters . . . such daughters if more than one to be tenants in common.

In default (then) to the use of my nephew John Lamb and Joseph Lamb sons of my brother Richard Lamb and their heirs share and share alike as tenants common. I give to my sister Jane Wilson during her life one Annuity of two pounds. I give unto my brother William Lamb the sum of ten pounds . . . and to my brother Richard Lamb the sum of forty-five pounds.

I give unto my said brother Joseph Lamb and the said John Mitchinson the sum of one hundred pounds upon trust to be paid and applied for the support of James Lamb the natural son of my dau. Hannah until he shall attain the age of twenty one years and then to pay the said sum unto the said James Lamb, in case he should die before 21, then to pay the same sum to my daughter Hannah. . .

My person estate I give to my loving Wife Hannah and her exors. I give to her all my freehold and copyhold estates vested in me by way of mortgage to the intent that she may be enabled to reconvey the same and do any other necessary acts concerning such mortgaged estates without applying to my heir at law.

Dated 14 December 1782.

Witnesses—Jacob Stordy, John Taylor, Regin. Lowson.

Proved 3 July 1784.

The Seathill property remained in the hands of the Waugh family until the death of Hannah Waugh's great-grandson, Mr. Edward Lamb Waugh, in 1917, when it was sold. There is a table-stone to the memory of the Waugh family in Irthington Churchyard, north of the church, and also an obelisk to the memory of some later members of the family.

The second son of Richard Lamb of Seathill, David, was a "Hoastman"* of Newcastle. He was entered on the Company's list of members on October 13th, 1757, "in virtue of his servitude to Francis Armourer." The two ways of becoming a member were by "servitude" to an existing member or by inheritance. David was apprenticed first to John Armourer on September 17th, 1741. In 1769 he purchased East and West Temon from "Scaife and others" for £2,535, and devised it in the same year to his two daughters, Alice and Mary Lamb. We do not know who his wife was, but from an abstract of his will of 1775 with

* The Hoastmen or Hostmen of Newcastle were coal merchants. They are sometimes defined as being those who arranged for the conveyance of the coal from the mines to the staithes on the river-side, and thence to the ships in keels, but they seem to have done much more than this, and to have arranged about the leasing of mines, etc., in some cases. In 1590, when the Lord Mayor of London wrote to Lord Burghley complaining of the price of coal, he mentioned that the Society of Free Hostmen of Newcastle, which then consisted of about sixty persons, had obtained the residue of the lease of the valuable coal-fields belonging to the Manors of Gateshead and Whickham, and "had made it over to about eighteen or twenty persons, who had engrossed all the other collieries about Newcastle as well, and had thus obtained a monopoly."¹ In 1600 Elizabeth granted a Charter incorporating the Fraternity of Hostmen or Coal Merchants. They and the Company of Merchant Adventurers were the two companies in Newcastle who could claim continuity with the old Merchant Guild of Newcastle. Different derivations are given for the name of "hostman": some derive it from the "hosts" appointed in every port by an Act of Henry IV in 1404, with whom, and with whom only, foreign merchants should lodge: others from the fact that in Newcastle the stranger arriving to buy coal was called the "oaste," and the person from whom he bought, the "oastman" so "hostman."² In the *Newcastle Chronicle's Encyclopædic Dictionary* the word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "hös," meaning an association, fellowship, or host, and the English "man."

¹ *Newcastle-on-Tyne: Its Municipal Origin and Growth*, by G. Daphne Rendel, p. 55.

² *Ibid.* pp. 77, 78. From the seal of the Hostmen's Company (See *The Local Historian's Table Book, Historical*, Vol. I, p. 233) it seems probable that the former is the correct derivation.

the Temon family papers we know that his brother-in-law was William Forster. It may be that David was the member of the Lamb family who started calico-printing in Carlisle in 1761 (see pp. 13, 53), a view that would seem to be borne out by the fact that in 1796 the firm was Messrs. Lamb, Scott, *Forsters* & Co. (see p. 13). His nephew, Joseph Lamb, bought half the Temon Estate from Mary Lamb in 1792 for £2,000, and the other half from Alice (then the wife of Michael Ashworth of Durham, barrister) in 1810 for £3,500. As the whole estate was purchased for £2,535 in 1769, the land had risen immensely in value if half of it was worth £3,500 in 1810: this would be due to the rise of value of all land towards the end of the Napoleonic wars.

The third son of Richard Lamb of Seathill, Richard Lamb of Kilesykehill, will be dealt with in a separate chapter, as will also the youngest son, Joseph. Of the fourth son, William, we glean a little information from the Temon Title Deeds and Kilesykehill papers. He is described as a yeoman of Kilesykehill, of Castlesteads, and of Mount Pleasant in succession. On May 2nd, 1769, he purchased a tenement at Clowsgill from Jno. Wigham, which is referred to in a statement of account between William and his brother Joseph, covering a period of seven years from 1784 to 1791, when Joseph purchased a Moiety of Clowsgill, which was conveyed on August 21st, 1789, to his son Humble. In his will William Lamb describes himself as "of Mount Pleasant in the Parish of Kirklington, yeoman":

First I give to Elizabeth the wife of William Lamb of Heathersgill Head one Black year old Hifor.

to my nephew John, son of my Brother Richard Lamb of Kellsykehill one Silver Watch with the name of my late Brother David on the Dial plate and a drab Coat with a waiste Coat which came from Newcastle. I likewise give and bequeath to my Nephew Joseph son of my above named Brother Richard a black Coat with a waiste Coat which came from Newcastle. I likewise give and bequeath to my Brother Richard above named my Suit of black Cloaths.

I likewise have a sum of money in the Hands of my Brother Joseph Lamb of Newcastle for which I have his Bond (but of which Bond I have received several sums at different times) to be disposed of by him as he thinks fit.

And as to the residue I give and bequeath the same to my Nephew John Lamb above named and to James who lives along with me (a Natural son of Hannah the wife of Richard Waugh of Seathill) which said John and James I hereby appoint Joint Executors.

Dated 29 November, 35 Geo. III, 1794.

*Wit. John Lamb, William Lamb.**

Probate granted 27 June 1795.

* Probably John and William Lamb of Hethersgill.

£20

Kilseyke Hill Novemb: 17: 1787

At sight please pay Baker Ridley & Co. in order Twenty Pounds
for value received without further advice from.

To

M^r: Jos: Lamb

Bye Bank Newcastle

Richard Lamb

A. L. copy of the original now in D. L.

FACSIMILE OF SIGNATURE OF RICHARD LAMB
OF KILESYKEHILL

CHAPTER V

The Lambs of Kilesykehill

RICHARD, the third son of Richard Lamb, of Seathill (pp. 19, 23), acquired Kilesykehill through his marriage on December 5th, 1762, at Walton, with Elizabeth Swinburne, the daughter of Joseph Swinburne of Walton, who married Margaret Railton of Kilesykehill in 1739. Elizabeth's mother died in 1743, and her father probably in 1746, as in the latter year the "tuition" of the little Elizabeth, then aged six, was granted at Carlisle. From papers kindly lent by Mr. William Bell (to whom Kilesykehill ultimately passed by marriage) we find that Richard Lamb was a tithe collector for a period of at least twenty-eight years. There are also several documents referring to a dispute between Lord Carlisle and some of his tenants lasting many years (1749-1770), in which dispute, in its later stages, Richard Lamb took a prominent part.

We can gather a little about Richard Lamb's life and character from these documents. He is always described as a yeoman, and was evidently a man of some business capability and of some prominence among his neighbours, since he was appointed one of their representatives in the matter of the Grand Combination Bond.* He seems also to have been a man of affectionate disposition, and deeply attached to his children, judging by some letters (given later in this chapter) written by his younger son, Joseph, to his elder son, John, in which there are generally messages to his father, e.g. "Tell my father (for I know his affection) not to make himself uneasy at my being such a distance from him."

There is a headstone to the memory of Richard and his wife in Irthington Churchyard, to the east of the church. Their elder son, John (bapt. Jan. 16th, 1763), inherited Kilesykehill, and through his daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, it passed to her husband,

* Of tenants against Lord Carlisle, see above.

Robert Little. He, on her death, married again, and through the remarriage of his widow, Mrs. Ann Little, the property passed to Mr. William Bell of Brampton. There are various documents relating to John Lamb among the Kilesykehill papers. The earliest relates to the purchase by him on January 28th, 1794, for £176 of a piece of land (about fourteen acres) formerly belonging to Walter Bulman of Heads Wood, which had originally been a part of Irthington Moor or Common. There are also several papers relating to cases in which he was called upon by the Court of the Barony of Gilsland to act as juror to decide matters in difference between his neighbours. Some of these appear to be notes made by John Lamb, or draft reports drawn up by him, as they are written on the back of his old bills, and sometimes the same report is written out several times in slightly different forms. One of these notes refers to a complaint brought by one John Boustead against John Hogg—

for not cleaning or Scouring the Water Course between their Grounds . . . we on the 3^d of September did meet and View the above water course so in dispute and finds the water course sufficiently Clear Altho' John Hoggs side has not been Cut and Cleared so lately as John Bousteads side, and also it further appearing unto us upon the best Information we could obtain it had been the former Custom for each occupier to fence and cart their own side so as their Cattle or goods did not trespass upon the other—John Bousteads Ground being in grass we are of Opinion he must fence so as to prevent his Cattle from Tresspassing upon the Ground of John and John Hogg to Cart and do in like Manner with his Cattle and we order the same rule to be observed and kept between the respective occupiers hereafter.

Another refers to a charge brought by John Hogg (who appears to have found it difficult to live at peace with his neighbours) against John Philipson, and incidentally refers to the fact that John Lamb among others had been round to examine the weights in the district :

That on Thursday Sept. 3^d and Wednesday Oct. 6th we went round the district and examined the weights and found them all right. And that on Notice being given unto us by Jno. Hogg from Mr. Ramshay we met on Saturday 10th Inst^t and examined the water course in dispute between the said Jno. Hogg and Mr. Philipson and Mr. Philipson having in the mean time opened his conduit it appeared to us to be sufficient to convey the water so as

not to injure the Ground of the said Jno. Hoggs farm we therefore give our Verdit that it remain as it is Jno. Philipson opening it from time to time as occasion may require.

In connection with this we have also Thomas Ramshay's summons to John Lamb:

Mr. John Lamb.

Upon the complaint of John Hogg you and your fellow Jurors are required to meet on Saturday the 10th day of October 1807 and view a Tresspass occasioned by Mr. John Philipson stopping a Watercourse and by stopping the same it overflows and injures the said John Hoggs farm. You'l therefore view the said Premises and according to the Evidence to You produced insert the same in your Verdict to be given in at the next general Court to be held for the Barony of Gilsland.

Given under my Hand this sixth day of Oct^r 1807.

THOS. RAMSHAY.

John's younger brother, Joseph (bapt. Jan. 25th, 1767), was a chemist and druggist, and for a time a ship's doctor. One of the letters given here describes a shipwreck he was in. He finally settled in Carlisle, where he was evidently held in great esteem both for his professional skill and his kindness of heart. The obituary notice of him in the *Carlisle Patriot* of Saturday, October 20th, 1821, runs as follows:—

At his brother's house, Kylesike Hill, in the parish of Irthington, on Thursday the 12th inst., after a few weeks' severe illness, and in the prime of life, Mr. Joseph Lamb, formerly chemist and druggist in this City. His attainments in that profession (says a Correspondent) were of the first order. For several late years, his Efforts to relieve the sufferings of others were undefatigable and his success eminent. Emolument formed no part of his object—"far other aims his heart had learnt to prize." Feelings of sincere regret were perhaps never more strongly manifested than by the very large party of respectable neighbours who paid the last tribute of respect to the deceased at his funeral.

We will conclude this chapter with the four letters from Joseph to his elder brother, John, which are preserved among the Kilesykehill papers.

N. Castle, 13th October 1790.

Dear Brother,

I would have answer'd your Letter sooner but Business prevented indeed we have not had Ten Minutes to spare this two Months exclusive of the Sundays. My Uncle* and Humble sets off for Cumberland in the morning you will see them in all probability about the time you receive this Letter. I hope by this time you will be about the conclusion of your Harvest. The weather here has been very precarious. I should be happy to hear that the Weather has been favourable with you. Mr. Young informs me that he saw you & that you are very Jolly and Look 10,00000 Degrees better with your Hair tyed. I am glad to find that you assume the likeness of a Man & not that of a Colt. I rec^d. a Guinea from Warwick with not a little trouble which is all I ever expect from him there is sad work at present betwixt Ned Hetherington and Him. Ned finds they will not be able to produce the Rent & he wishes the Landlord to seize upon the Stock & Crop but he refuses that as Ned took the Farm he looks upon Ned to pay the Rent which has drawn Ned into a nice predicament. I should have suppos'd that he could not expect any other from such a Rude Savage as Warwick.

Humble Lamb will in all probability pay you a visit but for the certainty of it you will most likely learn on Tuesday. I think if he rides the Chesnut Horse honest he will most likely lead some of them a Dance at the Temon Hunt. I think Humble is extremely well equip'd for the Season. I would advise you to make your appearance at the Temon Hunt if the Filly is in good condition & Saddle and Bridle in good trim & that you may not be at a Loss for a Hunting Whip I have sent one by Mason as genteel a One as any will be there. Pray give my compliments to Sisters—inform them my Shirts are not in a very good plight. My respects to Father and Compliments to all enquiring Friends.

Your affectionate Brother

JOSEPH LAMB.

P.S.—As it is a secret that affair of Hetherington's it will be best not to make it public yet as secrecy was desir'd to me by a very particular Friend of Ned's.

London. Aug^t. 22nd 1791.

Dear Brother,

My reason for not writing sooner was I had got into a Situation & I could not be able sooner to inform you how I liked it. My place I assure you is a very easy one. I am not kept busy above four Hours in the Day, tho we keep Shop open between Six O'Clock in the Morning till Eleven at Night. I have

* Joseph Lamb of Ryton and his son Humble.

the offer of another place which I intend seeing about to-Morrow it is a very capital House but I am affraid it is a Slavish one. The one that I am in at present I only leave on account that I have no prospect of improving myself in it, tho I intend staying in it till I get fix'd in another. Tell my Father not to make himself uneasy about me. I am quite happy myself & have plenty of Money which is the only Friend one can carry about with them. My Uncle has given me an Order on a Banker in London for much more Money than I think I shall have occasion to draw. I have had a very indulgent letter from my Uncle & two or three from Humble.

I shall expect to hear from you immediately & inform me how your Crop promises with all the News of the Country. I yesterday saw Ned Hind & Family neither Tom Hind or Robt. Burton have got a Situation. Ned has got a place in the Excise. Peggy looks very thin. I have also seen Richd. Harding of Read Hill he is quite a Cockney. David Reay was along with him. I have seen numbers of NCastle people in London but I dont make companions of above three or four. It is very probable that you will one Day or other see this Large and extensive City that you have heard such a Noise about, for if I should settle in NCastle (which is most probable) I shall be in London almost every Year, so that most likely I shall have the Pleasure of showing you London & its Curiosities. When you see Kit Gaddis inform him I have seen all the capital Boxers in London. Mendoza is certainly the most Scientific Boxer in the World & next to him Ward, & Johnson, but Mendoza wants weight he is the slenderest of all the Boxers I have seen. Ryan, is a very good Boxer, he is equal to any of them if he had as good a Heart.

Rich'd Bowman & I have always a good Drink together every Voyage. Dick has turn'd quite a Smart Fellow he is really a good Natur'd Fellow as any I know of. John Gibson desires his Compliments he is looking out for a Wife. I wish him success tho I don't see that he can keep one as he has no visible employment at present. The Cumberland Folks in general are remarkable fond of Dress they all have the appearance of Gentlemen with not a penny in their Pockets. But as I have no further News to impart I shall conclude & impatiently wait your Answer. My best love to Father & Sisters, & compliments to Uncle William, &c., &c., & all old Acquaintances.

Your ever Affectionate Brother,

P.S.—Direct as before.

J. LAMB.

London. March 13th-92.

Dear Brother,

I am almost asham'd to write after so long silence but according to the old adage it's better late than never, it's only customary for you & I to preface our

CHAPTER VI

The Lambs of Ryton :

Joseph Lamb the Elder

JOSEPH LAMB of Ryton was the fifth and youngest son of Richard Lamb of Seathill, and was born at that place on April 20th, 1732. We have no definite information about his early years, but Mr. Robert Wrigley of Brampton, writing in the " Out and About " column of the *Carlisle Journal* of February 4th, 1913, says:

Joseph . . . the grandfather of Mr. R. O. Lamb . . . went to some relations in Newcastle in 1745 or 1746, and remained in that neighbourhood, becoming a wealthy man.

The only relative living in Newcastle, so far as we know, was his brother David, who was certainly there prior to 1757, and may have been there as early as 1745. Richard Lamb, their father, died on December 20th, 1746, and if David was settled in Newcastle at that time, it would be quite natural that his younger brother, Joseph, then aged thirteen or fourteen, should go to live with him. The fact that David's daughters are the only nieces to whom Joseph Lamb left legacies would also be accounted for if he were specially indebted to his brother David for his start in life, and for kindness in his early years.

The first information we get about Joseph Lamb concerns his first marriage, about which there is some mystery. The ceremony was performed twice in the same year, although all ordinary regulations seem to have been conformed to in the first ceremony, which was publicly known and noted in the *Newcastle Courant* at the time (January 28th, 1764):

Tuesday was married at St. John's, Mr. Joseph Lamb, Linen draper, to Miss Humble, an amicable young lady with a considerable fortune.



RYTON HALL

The Durham Marriage Bond of January 23rd, 1764, describes Joseph Lamb sr. of "All Saints, Newcastle, aged 22, Linendraper," and Ann Humble as of "St. John's, Newcastle, aged 20," and there is a note: "Barnard Smith is her Tutor and Guardian and consents." The marriage took place on January 24th at St. John's, by licence, Ann Humble being described as a minor. David Lamb was among the witnesses.

On October 10th, 1764, however, we find the following Marriage Bond at Durham: "Joseph Lamb, St. Nicholas, Newcastle, aged 29, Linen draper, and Ann Humble of do. aged 21: Barnard Smith, Newcastle, agent, bondsman": and on October 13th the marriage ceremony took place for the second time at St. Nicholas, Newcastle: "Joseph Lamb and Ann Humble, both of this Parish, by licence: witnesses, Barnard Smith, E. Thompson." It is curious that Joseph Lamb's age is given differently and wrongly on both occasions, but this would not invalidate the first marriage. The only explanations seem to be either that Barnard Smith, the guardian, had not really given his consent on the first occasion and had the marriage set aside, but relented later, as he appears as witness on the second occasion; or that by some clause in her father's will, which was not discovered even by her guardian till later, she was debarred from marrying till she came of age, and they may have thought it well to have a second ceremony performed when that occurred to legalize her inheritance.

According to one tradition, Ann Humble was the daughter of Joseph Humble, whose father,—Humble of Ryton, married Ann Ormsby, daughter of——Ormsby of Lanchester. Mr. William Bourn in his *History of Ryton* says, however, that she was the daughter of Ralph Humble of Ryton House. By his marriage with her, Joseph Lamb became possessed of the Ryton Estate. The Humble family lived in Ryton from an early date. In Ryton Church, against the west end of the south aisle, is a marble slab, bearing the arms of the Humble family—a stag trippant, a chief indented: crest, a stag's head erased. The village of Ryton

occupies a lofty and beautiful situation on the south banks of the Tyne, seven miles west of Newcastle. . . . Ryton Church stands at the western

extremity of the village, and its situation is extremely picturesque and attractive. . . . A brass fixed in the floor, at the west end of the nave, is a memorial to the Lambs of Ryton House. There are also several tombstones erected to the memory of the Lambs of Ryton along the side of the footpath in the churchyard. The style of architecture of the Church is Early English or Lancet, and the date of its erection may be ascribed to the early part of the thirteenth century (1220). It was twice plundered by the Scots, once under Sir William Wallace in 1297, and again in 1346 under King David of Scotland. There is a legend that St. Cuthbert appeared to King David at Ryton, and admonished him that he should forbear to spoil or otherwise destroy his territory, but the King seems to have treated this warning with indifference.*

The Market Cross† stands on the village green, a short distance east of the Rectory. The column, which is composed of four shafts, with the pedestal is about eighteen feet high, surmounted by a cross. It bears the date 1795. Thomas Chancer, a well-known mason in Ryton one hundred years ago, was the sculptor. In olden times the village fair was held in the churchyard, on the anniversary of the founding or dedication of the parish church, and thus became at the same time a church festival and a general holiday, which brought together the parishioners and people from the surrounding locality, who availed themselves of the opportunity of buying and selling or bartering and exchanging, or otherwise disposing of things that are marketable. Afterwards the scene of the fair was changed from the churchyard to the open space in the town. . . .

At the hirings for farm servants, which took place at Ryton annually, on the Fridays before May 12th and November 22nd, the scene was gay, lively and interesting. Multitudes of people of both sexes from all parts of the neighbouring country flocked to the fair to witness the sports and other attractions provided for the visitors. The public-houses were whitewashed: the doors and windows of cottages were painted; in fact everything was done by the villagers to render the hirings attractive and successful. The servants who offered their services stood around the Cross, each sex forming a distinct company; and in order to distinguish themselves from the ordinary visitors, the young men fixed a green sprig in their hats, and the young women held a similar sprig in their hands, or had it fixed at the breast. At the time of hiring the servants received their "arles" (to bind the contract), which usually amounted to 2s. 6d., and occasionally to 5s., after which they either repaired to the public-house, or enjoyed themselves in other ways. The stalls containing articles for sale lined both sides of the street, while the caravans, with their usual accompaniments, stood opposite to the rectory cottages. The scene

* *History of the Parish of Ryton*, by William Bourn, pp. 1, 3, 8, 32.

† Joseph Lamb built Ryton Cross and part of the Hall.

was often enlivened by itinerant minstrels, who endeavoured to "make a penny" by offering their songs for sale: and a juggler would astonish the servant lads by his feats of legerdemain. It is needless to mention that extraordinary sights were sometimes witnessed at the fair or hirings. On one occasion a well-known Ryton "character," named Ben Renwick, drove into the village on the back of a bull, and galloped several times round the Cross, making the sight-seers run in all directions. Dancings were held at night in the public-houses, which were frequented by the youth of both sexes, and which were carried on until the following morning. Ryton Hirings and Swallow Hopping were times when many a hard fought pugilistic encounter took place between those who had old scores to pay off, or old disputes to settle; the village constable being powerless to maintain law and order.*

After 1866, Ryton Hirings became an institution of the past. On the road to Hexham stands the "Lamb Arms" public-house, a modern building erected on the site of an old house which had stood for two centuries alongside one of the old wagon-ways. Ryton House itself is described in *The History of Ryton* (William Bourn) as "a large modern brick building, well sheltered, and adorned with well-kept lawns."

Joseph Lamb and Ann Humble had two children, both of whom died in infancy and were buried at St. Nicholas, Newcastle; Ruth on February 16th, and Richard on March 7th, 1766. Ann herself died on July 3rd, 1768, and was buried at St. Nicholas on July 5th. The *Newcastle Courant* of July 9th, 1768, contains the notice: "Sunday died Mrs. Lamb, wife of Mr. Joseph Lamb, an eminent linen draper in the Close." Joseph's chief activity therefore in 1768 was still the linen trade.

We hear no more of Joseph Lamb until four years later, when on October 6th, 1772, he married Sarah Maude at Bishopwearmouth. At this time he was forty, and she was only twenty-three. Her father was Warren Maude of Sunnyside, near Sunderland, "a noted coal fitter, whose daughters are commemorated in local song:—

We'll all away to Sunnyside,
To Sunnyside, to Sunnyside,
We'll all away to Sunnyside
To see the fitter's maidens.

1706888

* *History of the Parish of Ryton*, by William Bourn, pp. 33 and 34.

Hey, skipper, our fitter
 Haes some bonnie maidens;
 We'll all away to Sunnyside
 To see our fitter's maidens.'''*

The Maudes are an old and interesting family. Besides being "bonnie," Sarah Maude seems to have been of a lively and affectionate disposition, judging from the delightful letter to her two younger sons given later in this chapter, full of practical common sense (in spite of the fact that she once "forgot the chimneys"!) and with very modern ideas on the subject of fresh air. She seems also to have been intellectual and interested in philosophy. The only book we have belonging to her, however, with her name "S. Lamb" on the flyleaf, is *The Christian Hero: an Argument Proving that no PRINCIPLES but those of RELIGION Are Sufficient to make a GREAT MAN*.

Joseph and Sarah Lamb had three sons and two daughters. The family lived at Ryton in the summer, and moved into Newcastle for the winter season, as was then the custom. In 1781 their house in Newcastle was Cross House. In 1889 the Newcastle *Monthly Chronicle* gave the following account of it:

Cross House stands at the eastern end of a wedge-shaped block of buildings that divides the thoroughfare of Westgate Road at its widest part into two branches. . . . The date of erection does not appear. Speed's map, published in 1610, shows buildings upon the same spot; Corbridge's map, issued in 1724 . . . clearly indicates a house of the same area. We may, therefore, fairly assume that Cross House was the habitable mansion of some well-to-do Newcastle citizen when the eighteenth century came in.

From the surroundings of the place there is no difficulty in supposing that Cross House was a very comfortable and very pleasant residence. The prospect down the wide thoroughfare of Westgate Street was of itself sufficiently picturesque. On the right were the lofty dwellings occupied by some of the best families in Newcastle; on the left the Vicarage and St. John's Church; in the centre the Vicar's pump; with all the changing accessories of locomotion—callers in carriages and callers in chairs, travellers on horseback and travellers on foot—which such juxtaposition of fashionable dwellings and popular resorts naturally created. From the upper windows the view must

* *A History of Banks, Bankers and Banking in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire*, by Maberly Phillips, p. 161.

have been charming. The Forth with its leafy avenues and fragrant flower-plots, although close at hand, might not be visible through the cramped alley called Forth Lane; but to the north and east were orchards, closes, and well kept gardens stretching down from the Bigg Market to encircle the picturesque old Vicarage, and the evergreen churchyard of St. John; while over Pudding Chare rose the glittering pinnacles of St. Nicholas', and over Denton Chare, possibly, the bright acclivities of suburban Gateshead.

. . . Who was its first, and who were its successive, occupants we know not. It has, however, been ascertained that during much of his bachelor life in Newcastle, and for some time after he married, the old house was occupied by Ralph Carr, of Dunstan Hill, founder of "The Old Bank" in Newcastle. He brought his wife there as a bride in 1758, and nine years later . . . he is found writing to her from London, and mingling with a graphic account of the sights he had seen in the great metropolis an aspiration for the old place and the young folks at home:—"Yet, I assure thee," he writes, "I should have had far more pleasure in examining John's and Annabella's collections at Cross House." In our own time the mansion was for many years occupied by the Rev. Henry Wildey Wright, incumbent of St. John's, and then it became commonly spoken of as St. John's Vicarage. But when about the year 1870 Mr. Wright removed to Charlotte Square, and the house was devoted to commercial uses, the old name was retained, and as Cross House it continues to be known.

We do not know at what date Joseph Lamb and his family left Cross House, but in 1765 they were living at Charlotte Square.

Joseph Lamb seems to have been the business man of the family, as well as a most generous benefactor. He was one of the executors and trustees appointed by the will of his brother, John Lamb of Seathill, who bequeathed all his estates to him and John Mitchinson of Carlisle, in trust for his daughter Hannah (p. 21). His brother, William Lamb of Mount Pleasant, received at least one present of over fifty pounds from him (as we learn from a statement of account between the two brothers among the Kilesykehill papers), and in his will he directs that a sum of money Joseph was holding for him should be "disposed of by him as he thinks fit" (p. 23), another proof of the confidence placed in him by his family. Richard Lamb of Kilesykehill, another brother, also received at least one present of seventy-seven pounds odd. Richard's son, Joseph, evidently re-

ceived great kindness at his uncle's hands too, judging by the references in his letters—"My Uncle has given me an Order on a Banker in London for much more Money than I think I shall have occasion to draw" (p. 29). An account between Richard and Joseph Lamb among the Kileseykehill papers is of interest.

Dr.	Richd. Lamb his Acct. with Joseph Lamb	Cr.
1782		1786
Decr. 9. Note on demd. 25. . .		May By a Gallaway 3.15. .
Int. to May 1st, 1791 10.10. 6.		Novr. By a Black Horse 14. . .
1785		By Ham 56 lb. 1. 8. .
July 16. Dra ^t to J. Mitchin-son 10.10. .		By a Chesnut Horse 25. . .
Int. to May 1, 1791 1.11. 6.		By a Filly 1 yr. old. 8. . .
1786		By Balance due to, 52. 3. .
May Pd. for a Brown Mare wh. was ret ^d . 10. . .		Joseph Lamb 77. 2. 8.
1787		
Novr. 17. Dra ^t to John		
Int. to May 1st, 1791 3. 9. 6.		
Paid Lamb & Waldie for a Box Soap 1.17. 6.		
Note 40. . .		
Int. to May 1, 1791 6. 6. 8.		
	129. 5. 8.	129. 5. 8.

I Joseph Lamb hereby agree to relinquish to Rich^d Lamb the above Balance as stated and due to me £77. 2. 8. & that I make him a present of it for ever as witness my hand Newcastle May 1. 1791.

JOSEPH LAMB.

In his relations with his children, from the little we know, Joseph Lamb seems to have been equally happy. John Bowes Wright, a friend of his three sons, writing to the youngest on the occasion of his father's death, says:

My dearest L.* should have heard from me ere this, but for the successive occupations that engross my every moment. I lay aside all however to answer your last distressing account. I condole in the sincerest manner with you, my

* Probably a contraction for "Lad," as J. B. W. often addresses Joseph as his dear Lad.

Dr. Mich. Lamb his Acc^t with Joseph Lamb, C^p
 1782 Dec^r 9. Note on Dem^r £ 25 " " May 1786 By a guttaway 3.15 "
 Int to May 1. 1791 — 10.10.6 Nov^r By a Black Horse 14 " "
 1788 July 16 drat to J. Mitchinson 10.10 " By Hams 56 lbs 1.3 "
 Int to May 1. 1791 — 1.11.6 By a chearut Horse 25 " "
 1786 May - 1/2 for a Brown mare By a Filly 1/2 old - 8 " "
 which was ret^d — } 10 " "
 1787 Nov^r 17 drat to John Mitchinson 20 " " By Balance due to } 77.2.8
 Int to May 1. 1791 — 3.9.6 Joseph Lamb — }
 Paid Lamb & Co. for a Back bag. — } 1.17.6 129.5.8
 Note — — — 40 " "
 Int to May 1. 1791 — 6.6.8
 129.5.8

I Joseph Lamb hereby agree to relinquish to Rich^d
 Lamb the above Balance as stated & due to me
 £ 77.2.8 & that I make him a present of it for
 Ever as witness my hand Newcastle May 1. 1791

Joseph Lamb

(2)

FACSIMILE OF ACCOUNT BETWEEN JOSEPH AND
RICHARD LAMB

Dear Friend, for that greatest loss a young man can sustain on earth, the loss of an indulgent Father; and I lament this sad event, not only in the relation the departed stood to those most dear to me, but as a most worthy member of society, as the monitor and friend of my youth; and the first intelligence of this sorrowful circumstance brought up long trains of associated reflection and spread before my mind one of those chasms which chequer the smooth path of man and reveal to him his frailty and mortality. But, when we consider that he is but gone before us, that one day we must fall, when we think that from the first moments of incipient reflection, we have perceived the ideas of man and death as inseparable as the action of the moon and the revolving tides of the ocean; I say on these reflections, we have no due efficient cause for sorrow; for sooner or later it is what we must all come to, as Horace beautifully expresses it,

Omnes eodem cogimur; omnium
Versatur urna; serius ocus
Sors exitura, et nos in aeternum
Exilium impositura cymbae.†

All who have preceded us, however distinguished by virtue, fortitude or beauty have left no more traces behind than the fleeting cloud of winter, and all who shall follow us will be obligated by the same necessity; it is therefore as unphilosophic to grieve uselessly at the fulfilment of this fixed law of Nature, as to mourn the rosy hours that are past because the present are not tintured with so vivid a colouring. And here let me remark the manly fortitude my friend displays on this occasion, for, knowing the strong affection you had for your dear father, I call it fortitude to restrain the more effeminate marks of sorrow and to appear cheerful under such a pressing calamity; it at once shews his liberal acquirements and not that he feels less than others, but that he can endure more, not that he is less callous to humanity, but that he is more superior to misfortune.

We have also two letters written by Joseph Lamb in 1798 and 1799 to his two younger sons, Warren and Joseph, then aged about eighteen and seventeen respectively, from which we gather that he took them into his confidence about his business affairs, and encouraged them to turn their education to practical purposes.

Bath.

Dr. Warren and Joe.

March 29. 1793.

I continue to drink the waters and use the hot bath three times a week, and find them perfectly to agree tho' the weakness in my knee still continues. The

† *Horace*, Book II, Ode 3.

hot bath, I think, is rather of a relaxing nature that I do not look for much alteration till I have finish the course, which will be about the 17th April, we shall after that time think of returning home and hope to meet you both well about Sunday or Monday 22 or 23 April. Humble is now very well in London with Mr. and Mrs. Scott, they intend returning on Sunday first and be at home some time next week. tell John to get in my mare have her properly prepared for riding on my return. I hope the black and chestnut colts are fit for use by this time, take care how you ride them, and learn them no bad tricks. Write upon receipt of this and mention how the Colliery goes on, how Davidson is in forwardness with his seed, how the gardiner manages and every other information. I've no doubt of your continuing your usual application to your studdys and that we will have a good account on our return.

I am, your affect. Father

JOSEPH LAMB.

Joseph Lamb Esq.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.
(for W. & J. Lamb)

The following letter from their mother is written on the back of the above:—

My dear Sons,

I am happy to say your father is finely, I am sure Ryton air will be of great service, and walking in the fields when we return, which I hope may be sooner than he names. I would have Jenny send the sweepers up soon. I once had the house cleaned and we forgot the chimneys. I hope Mary is well and opens the windows, and that you have your window open, top and bottom, and do say if you are in good health. I long to be with you and for you to have your rides every day, be sure take exercise, you can't have health *without*. You may tell Nancy when she has finished those stockings, to get some and knitt another pair, be sure don't want for anything. I will let Warren have my Lavater, for I can't meet with one so good here, Nicholson Natural Philosophy, all the Numbers is not come out here. I have had a pleasant walk this morning; I wish you could send me a London paper, I never see one.

With dear love, I am dearest Sons,

Your affectionate Mother

S. LAMB.

I hope everything is agreeable to you and that you are all well. God bless you and write a long letter.

Carlisle.

April 6th. 1799.

Dr. Warren and Joe,

I've been here since this day week and I've the pleasure to say everything is got settled between Forster and the Comp^y. We have signed articles and he to deliver up his keys on Monday, we have resisted his exorbitant demands and made terms many hundreds less than we would have given him last Christmas. Now everythin, I hope, will go on smoothly and we (have) a prospect of a pleasant Trade. There is great improvements lately made in the bleaching of Callicoes by different people, more particularly by Mr. Mackintosh of Glasgow, who has got a pattend by means of introducing lime in the process, as Chemistry is a part of your studdy I wish you to inform your selfs on that brainch particularly as it will do you much credit and any improvement will do you honour, we as yet go on in the old stile. I propose staying here most of next week and see everything put upon a fair footing and return home the latter end of next week. The frost is very intense here and the communication stop'd between Newcastle and here by the snow for two days past, we think it cannot continue long. I've good accounts from home of the Colliery.

I am, your affect. Father

JOSEPH LAMB.

To Cornet Lamb
Gibbs Entry
Edinburgh.

Humble Lamb, the eldest son, was sent to Cambridge, and from the above letter Warren and Joe were evidently studying at Edinburgh University, so Joseph Lamb gave all his sons a good education. He enjoyed rude health, was bulky, and had a ruddy face. He used to have one bottle of port, and often two, and toast "The King and Constitution." In politics he was an old Tory, inclined to the Stuarts, but supported the Hanoverians. He was a good-tempered man, but imperious, and exacting to his wife. One of his favourite pursuits was coursing with greyhounds. There is a pastel of him in a blue coat at Ryton Hall, on the stairs, near the smoking-room. He built Ryton Cross and part of the Hall, was a magistrate for the County of Durham, and seems to have been a good friend and neighbour. He was one of the original shareholders in the Assembly Rooms at Newcastle, of which the foundation-stone

was laid in 1764. His business affairs are dealt with separately in the next chapter. He was evidently a clever man of business, engaging in many enterprises and making a considerable fortune. In the latter part of his life he was troubled with rheumatism or gout. He died suddenly on December 21st, 1800, at Brampton, when riding from Carlisle to Newcastle, and was buried at Ryton on December 27th, aged sixty-eight, a mortuary of ten shillings being paid. He left a very long and detailed will, of which the following is a summary.

To his second son, Warren Maude Lamb, he left two-thirds of his share in the "Calico Printing Business carried on at or near the City of Carlisle and Harraby" as "Lamb Scott Waldie and Company," two-thirds of his share in a "Cotton Manufacturing Business carried on at or near Dalston" as "Lamb Hebson and Company," and the whole of his share in the "Common Brewery at Brampton": to his youngest son Joseph, all his share in the Northumberland Glass Company and in the Willington Copperas Works, and all "my Copyhold Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments with the Appurtenances called the Hermitage situate and being in the County of Durham": with a proviso in the case of both sons that if their share exceeded the amount of ten thousand pounds each, the surplus above that sum was to be paid into the residue of the estate to go to the eldest son, Humble. To his wife, Joseph gave "during the term of her Natural Life all that my Messuage or Dwelling House commonly called the Whitehouse situate and being at Ryton . . . and the garden thereto adjoining," also "so much Household Furniture of every kind as may be necessary or suitable for the Messuage or Dwelling house above mentioned the same to be at her own disposal," also the Sum of £30 to be paid within one month after his death, and an annuity of £300. Everything else he left to his eldest son, Humble, with the exception of a sum of £2,500 to his daughter, Harriet, £50 to his nephew, John Lamb of Kilesykehill, and an annuity of £25 to each of his nieces Alice Ashworth and Mary Lamb her sister.

Joseph Lamb probably left property to the amount of at least

IN MEMORY OF
JOSEPH LAMB,
 WHO DIED DEC^R 21ST 1800, AGED 68.
 AND HIS WIFE ANN, DAUGHTER OF RALPH HUMBLE
 OF RYTON HOUSE.
 ALSO HIS WIDOW SARAH, DAUGHTER OF WARREN MAUDE
 OF SUNNYSIDE CO. DURHAM.
 HUMBLE LAMB, SON OF JOSEPH & SARAH,
 DIED APRIL 13TH 1844, AGED 70.
 JANE WIFE OF HUMBLE,
 DIED DEC^R 6TH 1819, AGED 37.
 ALEXANDER LAMB, SON OF HUMBLE & JANE,
 DIED SEP^T 12TH 1828, AGED 23.
 HELEN MARIA LAMB, DAUGHTER OF HUMBLE & JANE,
 DIED APRIL 12TH 1830, AGED 14.
 JOSEPH CHATTO LAMB, SON OF HUMBLE & JANE,
 DIED NOV^R 6TH 1884, AGED 81.
 “& IS INTERRED NORTH SIDE OF CHURCHYARD.”
 ELEANOR, WIFE OF JOSEPH CHATTO,
 DIED FEB^Y 6TH 1851, AGED 35.
 ALEXANDER HUMBLE LAMB, SON OF JOSEPH & ELEANOR,
 DIED JAN^Y 15TH 1847, AGED 14 MONTHS.
 AND WERE INTERRED IN THIS VAULT.

INSCRIPTION ON FAMILY VAULT, RYTON

£30,000, as he left his two younger sons legacies which he evidently intended to be approximately of the value of £10,000 each, and he certainly would not have left a less amount to his eldest son, who had also to pay other legacies out of the residue of the estate. There is nothing to show where the property “ called the Hermitage ” in the County of Durham was situated, and there is no other allusion to it in the family annals. The Whitehouse at Ryton, which he left to his wife, stands on the east side of Ryton Hall, and is thus described in William Bourn’s *History of Ryton*:—

Passing the north end of Whitewell Lane, a few minutes’ walk brings the visitor to “ The White House,” standing on the south side of the Cross. Eighty years ago, this interesting building was the Savings Bank. Soon after the Rev. Charles Thorp became Rector of Ryton (1807), he founded the bank to encourage thrift among his parishioners; it was open on Saturdays from six o’clock till eight, to receive deposits. During its existence it was of great benefit to the numerous body of smiths, colliers, and other industrious workmen of the neighbourhood. This Savings Bank was the first established in England. The Independents afterwards conducted religious services in the White House, having for their minister the Rev. D. Wilson.

Apparently, therefore, Mrs. Lamb cannot have lived in the house for more than seven or eight years after her husband’s death. She seems at some time to have returned to the neighbourhood of her father’s house, Sunnyside, and died at Bishopwearmouth on March 19th, 1831, aged eighty-two, having survived her husband by over thirty years.

CHAPTER VII

The Lambs of Ryton :

Joseph Lamb as a Business Man

IT is possible that Joseph Lamb began his business career in a colliery office in Newcastle, as his brother David was engaged in the coal trade, and afterwards became a "hostman," for we know that Joseph possessed shares in several collieries in later life, though he was never a member of the Hostmen's Company. Or he may have immediately entered the linen trade, in which he seems to have been principally, if not wholly, engaged at the time of his first marriage in 1764. In any case his activities were many and various: he was a linen-draper, soap-maker, banker, copperas-merchant, colliery owner, calico-printer, cotton-manufacturer, and may have been engaged in other business as well.

1. *The Linen-drapery Business.*

We first hear of Joseph as a linen-draper at the time of his marriage in 1764, and at his wife's death in 1768 he is described as an "eminent linen-draper." He carried on his business in the Close, and we know nothing further about it.

2. *Soap-making.*

In 1772, at the time of the great Bank panic throughout the country, an Edinburgh paper of July 3rd gives a list of firms and private individuals in Newcastle who have promised support to the Newcastle Bank and Exchange Bank, in which list occurs the firm "Ormston and Lamb"; and the Newcastle Directory of 1778 gives "Ormston and Lamb, soap-makers, Close (middle)." The Ormston partner was Robert Ormston (of Healey Hall, and No. 5

Saville Row, Newcastle, born 1748, died October 8th, 1836), son of Jonathan Ormston, the Quaker, whose great-grand-daughter married Joseph Lamb's grandson. About the year 1773—

A man, who had lodged a few Days at a Public house on the Keyside, went into Messrs. Ormston's and Lamb's shop in the Close, under Pretence of purchasing some Goods for which he tendered a Five Pound Scotch Bank-note, but Mr. Lamb suspecting the same to be forged desired him to wait a little in his Shop until he stepped out to speak to a Friend, and immediately communicated his suspicion to a magistrate, who ordered an officer to apprehend him, but the stranger suspecting a Discovery, thought proper to walk off before the officer or Mr. Lamb got to the Shop.*

This spirit of caution in his business dealings and his quick detection of a probable fraud are typical of the qualities in Joseph Lamb that raised him from a poor farmer's son to a rich and successful man of affairs. In the statement of account between Joseph and his brother Richard (see p. 38) there is an item of a box of soap supplied by "Lamb and Waldie" in 1787. Joseph Lamb therefore appears to have been engaged in the soap trade for at least fifteen years, though Robert Ormston apparently retired from the business between 1778 and 1787, and his place was taken by some member of the Waldie family.

3. *Banking.*

The next business in which we find him engaged is Banking.† The Newcastle *Chronicle* of March 22nd, 1777, announces:—

We desire to inform the public that we have opened a BANK (called the "TYNE BANK") near the Bridge End, in Newcastle, for the transacting of the Banking Business in all its Branches—John Baker, Thomas Shafto, Jonathan Ormston, William Cuthbert, Joseph Lamb.

* *History of Banks, Bankers and Banking in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire*, by Maberly Phillips, published by Effingham Wilson and Co., Royal Exchange, London, 1894, p. 159.

† All the information with regard to the Tyne Bank is obtained from *A History of Banks, Bankers, and Banking in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire*, by Maberly Phillips, pp. 32, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 60, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 77, 78, 118, 136, 137, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 248.

Their first premises were in the Close near Tyne Bridge. A note of theirs for five pounds, dated June 3rd of that year is signed—"For Baker, Shafto, Ormston, Cuthbert, & Self—Joseph Lamb." A facsimile of this note is given on page 155 of Maberly Phillips's *History of Banks*. A very few months after their opening they were troubled by the forgery of their five pound notes. Those presented they judiciously paid, called in their outstanding paper, and issued new notes. On October 4th, 1777, a notice appeared in a Newcastle paper, which stated:—

The forgeries lately committed upon the Tyne Bank in the Five Pound notes, we are informed has been attended with no inconvenience to the Public, as that Bank has paid every forged note which has been presented, and they are now issuing five pound notes from a beautiful new plate, very different from the old one. The forged notes discovered to be uttered do not amount to one hundred pounds, and as the most diligent enquiries have been made at every place within the circulation of these notes, it is certain that there are few, if any, not got in.

An unfortunate individual was arrested in Westmoreland on suspicion of uttering some of these forged notes, but upon the case being investigated, he was found "not guilty," and honourably acquitted.

The name of Baker, Shafto & Co., Newcastle, occurs in the day-book for 1778-1780 of the famous Banking House of Backhouse & Co. The following are samples of the entries:—

2nd of 1 mo. 1779. Baker, Shafto, & Co., Newcastle.—	£	s.	d.
By Attorney's bill of expenses respecting the forgery ..	9.	2.	6.
„ J. Nelsons bill for Chaise and Horses to Hexham and Axwell Park respecting the same	1.	6.	0.
„ Slacks bill for printing 300 hand bills	12.	0.	
„ One Weeks advertising in the Newspaper	5.	6.	
2nd of 7 mo. Baker, Shafto, & Co., Newcastle.—			
By 2 Recpts. from the Bank of Scotland for 9 advertisements in 2 papers resptg. J. Mathison	4.	2.	0.
20th of 10. Baker, Shafto, & Co., Newcastle.—To 1 peck of Nuts in the Husks, 1/4; 2 Do. Do. 2/4; 1 out of the Husks, 2/6; Cask, 10d.—			7/-
for and by order of Geo. Waldie.			

John Mathison, on account of whom most of these expenses were incurred,

was a notorious character: after committing various forgeries on provincial banks he removed to London, where he took the name of Maxwell, and commenced forging the notes of the Bank of England, which for some time he successfully accomplished. Eventually he was arrested on suspicion, but the evidence against him was so slight that nothing could be proved. He was sent by the bank solicitors in charge of the officer to a neighbouring public house, pending a consultation. While detained, Mathison made a determined effort to escape, which increased suspicion. Those in charge of the case took him again before Sir John Fielding, and further enquiries were made, when to the utter confusion of the prisoner, an *advertisement of the Darlington Bank* was produced and he was found to answer the description of Mathison—"The said John Mathison is about 30 years of age, of a middle stature, and strong made though thin; his face a little marked with small-pox, and one of his legs appears rather thicker at the ankle than the other, occasioned it is supposed, by its having been broke some time ago; and speaks the Scotch dialect"—who was suspected to have forged the notes of that bank. This being read to him, and being asked if his name were not Mathison instead of Maxwell, he all at once lost his resolution, turned pale, burst into tears, and, after saying, he found he was a dead man, he added, "And now I will confess all." Mathison afterwards acknowledged the whole of his forgeries, and offered to divulge his method of imitating the water mark for his freedom but the offer was declined. The wretched man was duly tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged, his execution being carried out at Newgate on July 28th, 1779.

The original partners in the Bank were:—

JOHN BAKER.—One of the family of Bakers of Crook and Elemore, Co. Durham. He married on July 3rd, 1762, Miss Read of Hertford. In 1778 besides being a banker he was carrying on business in the Broad Chare, Newcastle, as a coal fitter, and was an alderman of the town. In 1760 he was chosen Sheriff, and in the same year he erected "Tynemouth House" on the green at Tynemouth, as is testified by the date over the door. In 1768 he was chosen Mayor of Newcastle, and again in 1776. He was twice married, but left no issue. He died in 1784.

THOMAS SHAFTO.—Of whom nothing is known.

JONATHAN ORMSTON.—A Quaker. He was the father of Robert Ormston, Joseph Lamb's partner in the soap-manufacturing business (p. 44).

WILLIAM CUTHBERT.—Mr. Maberly Phillips, in his *History of Banks* says that he “ was a very clever man—a great lawyer, but owing to some little row in the Back Parlour of the Bank, he shot himself.”

JOSEPH LAMB.

It is reported that the original partnership only lasted for a few years, when material changes occurred. Subsequent partners were :

GEORGE BAKER.—He was the only son of George Baker of Elemore, by Judith, daughter and co-heiress of Cuthbert Routh, of Dinsdale, Co. Durham, who married Judith, daughter of Sir Ralph Milbank, Bart., of Halnaby, Co. York. He was born in 1753, succeeded his father in his estate in 1774, and appears to have entered the Bank after the death of John Baker in 1784. In his earlier years he was well known in sporting circles, and was supposed to be one of the best gentleman riders in England. He has been styled “ a genuine representative of the hunting and cock-fighting squires of the last century.” The following conversation is said to have passed between him and Mr. Surtees, the historian:—Mr. Baker: “ I wonder, Mr. Surtees, why you spend so much money and time over a History of Durham.” “ I wonder, Mr. Baker,” was the reply, “ why you spend so much money and time in following a pack of hounds after a poor hare.” In 1813 he was a candidate for the representation of the City of Durham, but was unsuccessful. In 1815 he was High Sheriff of Northumberland, and died in 1837. He devised the bulk of his property to his grandson (the eldest son of Colonel Tower, who married his only daughter), directing him to assume the name of Baker upon attaining the age of twenty-one. Directions were also given in his will that the following inscription should be placed upon his tomb-stone: “ Here lies the last of the George Bakers of Elemore Hall, in the County of Durham.”

JOHN HEDLEY.—Sheriff of Newcastle, 1766-7; Mayor, 1777-8 and 1788-9. Elected an Alderman in 1777, when the *Newcastle Chronicle* of March 8th announced, “ The prisoners for debt in Newgate return their most humble thanks to John Hedley, Esq., for two guineas, on account of his being made an Alderman of this town.” He died in 1797.

SIR WILLIAM LORAIN.—The family were first of Durham and then of Kirkharle in Northumberland. There may still be seen a stone in the glebe ground, a little west of the present way from the mansion house to the church of Kirkharle, which bears the following inscription:—“ This stone was set up in the place of an old one by Sir William Loraine, Bart., in 1728, in memory of Robert Loraine, his ancestor, who was barbarously murdered in this place by the Scots in 1483, for his good service to his country against their thefts

and robbery, as he was returning from church alone, where he had been at his private devotions."

THOMAS MAUDE.—Joseph Lamb's nephew, son of Thomas Maude and Margaret Holme, and grandson of Warren Maude.

In 1791 the Tyne Bank was receiving subscriptions for the abolition of slavery. Little is known of the Bank's affairs until the panic caused by the scarcity of gold in 1793 brought them before the public. On the 8th of April in that year, they, with the rest of the banks in the town failed to open their doors, and for some little time had to suspend payment.

In the early part of 1793 great uneasiness prevailed in London. On Feb. 19th the Bank of England refused the paper of Lane, Son, & Fraser, who the next day failed for a million. This event, with other causes, led to a panic in the City, which in time spread to the provinces. We learn by an interesting letter written from Newcastle, March 20th, 1793, by one of the firm of Lambton & Co. to the senior partner that things in the North up to that time were quiet. He says:—"Notwithstanding some convulsions amongst the bankers in different Parts of the Kingdom, we remain quiet and undisturbed here." Ere the month closed, we find a very different state of things. A general panic was raging in London, many bankers failed, some of whom acted for their northern brethren. Fresh London agents had to be appointed, and duly advertised in the local papers. This helped to spread alarm. Every holder of a note was anxious to convert it into gold. Scores of county bankers were in London, trying, by any means, to gather the precious metal, with which when obtained they instantly posted home, disregarding the perils of robbery on the road. The very bank that reported all "quiet and undisturbed" on the 20th had before the close of the month first a clerk and then two partners in London seeking gold; a supply of which they obtained, and carried north with all speed. Mr. Rowland Burdon, partner in the Exchange Bank, Newcastle, was in the metropolis upon the same mission. On the return journey, his post chaise was stopped by foot-pads, who pinioned the banker and rifled his pockets. The bullion fortunately escaped their notice. In Newcastle things had grown desperate. From Monday, April 1st, to Saturday, the 6th, all the banks had been sorely pressed, but had stood their ground. Then the proprietors of the "Commercial" felt that they could hold out no longer. On Monday morning, April 8th, they issued a notice stating that they must for a short time suspend their payments. They comforted their friends with the assurance that they could show a clear surplus of £25,000.*

* *Ibid.* p. 48.

On the same day a public meeting was held, at which a resolution was passed to support the Tyne Bank with three others as "Banks of unquestionable Credit . . . entitled to the confidence of the Public in the fullest extent." In spite of this there was still such a run on the Banks that they were obliged next day to issue a notice suspending payment for a time. Another public meeting was held the following day, at which a guarantee of £320,200 was raised. The various meetings and resolutions had the effect of restoring confidence, the Banks in the meantime having secured a fair amount of coin, and about ten days later they were able to resume their business as usual.

In July of the same year, the partners in the Tyne Bank made overtures to Messrs. Lambton, suggesting the amalgamation of the two firms, but the latter did not consider the time opportune for such an amalgamation, and returned the following reply:—

Newcastle, July 11th, 1793.

To George Baker, Esq., and Robert Newton Lynn, Esq.

Gentlemen,—We have considered your proposal for a union of our interests in the Banking concerns, but being apprehensive that under the present circumstances of the country any change might be attended with inconvenience, we feel ourselves on that account induced to decline your obliging and friendly offer.

Some time prior to 1795, Sir William Loraine joined the Bank. In that year the Tyne Bank is recorded as "at the Foot of the Flesh Market," trading as "Sir William Loraine and partners."

In 1797 another panic occurred which caused all the banks in the town again to suspend payment.

The nation was involved in an expensive war with France, and the Government were making enormous demands on the Bank of England. During 1795 and 1796, constant meetings of the officials were recorded, at which Prime Minister Pitt was "told that he must not overdraw his account so largely, or his cheques would be returned." He as constantly promised amendment, and at the same time asked for larger loans. Fears of an immediate invasion were abroad. For some months in 1795, the coasts of Northumberland and Durham were one long camp. . . . Uncertainty prevailed, those who had money held it the closer; those who required money had great difficulty in

procuring any. In February, 1797, some 1,200 French troops landed in Wales. The Government issued general orders to have all the stocks of farmers near the coast inventoried and driven into the interior. This prudent step, and for the farmers themselves beneficial arrangement, caused great alarm among that class, and those near Newcastle taking the lead, drove their grain into the town, and sold it at any price they could get, and being paid in Bank notes rushed to the Banks demanding specie. They were so persistent, that once again all the banks had to take united action. They held a meeting on Saturday, February 18th, and unanimously agreed that if the demand for gold was as great on Monday morning as it had been during the week, they would all suspend payment until more specie could be obtained.*

The Banks thus closed, the usual steps were taken to try and restore confidence. The inhabitants must have become quite accustomed to the proceedings. Public meetings were held and guarantees given very much in the same way as in 1793, and cash payments were soon resumed.

A story told by Mr. John R. Ord of Haughton Hall of a Bank panic a few years later gives a good idea of the way in which the countryside supported their Banks on these occasions. In July 1815 there were several bank failures in the north of England. So great was the panic in the County of Durham that even Backhouse and Co., of Darlington, were "talked about," though the credit of this firm was so secure in the public favour that a few years later a "Jonathan" (Backhouse) was infinitely preferred in the County of Durham to a note of the Bank of England.

My father† at this time banked with Messrs. Backhouse, in whom he had the greatest confidence in every respect. In proof of which he mounted horse and accompanied by a neighbour, Mr. Robert Thornton, called upon every influential gentleman in the district, obtaining in every instance a signature to a Declaration of Confidence in the Banking House of Jonathan Backhouse. The day was Sunday and at even my father called at the Friends Meeting House at Darlington, where the Quakers were assembled and enquired for Mr. Backhouse. The Verger hesitated—then he whispered—"Is it about the Bank?" The interview was at once effected. Early next morning (being the market day) my father rode into Darlington and there beheld large posters

* *Ibid.* p. 63.

† Mr. John Ord of Newton.

having printed upon them the Declaration of Confidence and all the signatures which his loyalty and energy had procured out of a well-spent Sabbath.*

The fortunes of the Tyne Bank are now a blank until Joseph Lamb's death in 1800, and the Bank came to an end in 1816.

4. *Copperas-making.*

The next business we find mentioned in connection with Joseph Lamb is copperas-making. In the *Universal British Directory*, 1793, we find, under Newcastle, "Joseph Lamb, copperas-maker." This work was carried on at Willington, for in his will he bequeaths to his son Joseph all his share in a "certain Partnership concern . . . called the Willington Copperas Works carried on at a place so called in the County of Northumberland." He estimates his share in this concern as £800 at the date of making his will, January 19th, 1800.

5. *Coal Trade.*

Joseph Lamb was interested in several collieries, some on Shire Moor, Heddon Colliery, Percy Main Colliery, and possibly others. The earliest of these were probably those on the Shire Moor. Heddon was probably the next colliery in which he became interested. We have a deed of Co-partnership in Heddon Colliery, dated August 1st, 1787, from which it appears that he held a two-fourths share in this Colliery, Robert Newton Lynn and George Waldie respectively holding the other two-fourths. It is probably this colliery to which he refers in his letters of 1798 and 1799 to his sons (pp. 40, 41).

In 1799 the winning of Percy Main Colliery was begun. The *History of Northumberland*, referring to the decay of the Shire Moor collieries, says it was due to

the competition of the deeper collieries of the Tyne basin, then recently opened out along the river side, and producing High Main coal which commanded the readiest sale in the London market. The last of these to be sunk, Percy Main, lay in Tynemouthshire, and the winning was commenced in 1799, the

* *Ibid.* p. 140.

partners being Joseph Lamb, George Waldie, John Walker, and Jacob Maude, who were already associated in the working of collieries on Shire Moor, their viewer being Mr. John Buddle.*

All Joseph's interest in colliery concerns must have been included in the residue of his estate, left to his eldest son, Humble, as they are not specifically mentioned in his will.

6. *Calico-printing.*

We do not know at what date Joseph Lamb's interest in calico-printing began. He may have succeeded his elder brother David as partner in the firm who introduced calico-printing in Carlisle (pp. 13, 23), Scott, Lamb & Co., and may often have ridden, "pistols at his saddlebow," to the fortnightly meeting of the Carlisle and Newcastle partners at the "Twice Brewed public" near the Roman Wall. By 1796 the name of the firm seems to have changed to "Lamb, Scott, Forsters & Co.," Joseph Lamb probably then being the senior partner. The Forsters, who were then partners, were probably members of the cotton-spinning family of Forster at Carlisle, and apparently the Forster partner was being bought out of the firm when Joseph Lamb wrote to his sons from Carlisle in 1799 (p. 41). On January 19th, 1800, when he made his will, the name of the firm seems to be "Lamb, Scott, Waldie & Company," and their business was "carried on at or near the City of Carlisle and Haraby in the County of Cumberland." Joseph's share of the calico-printing business was bequeathed to his second son, Warren Maude Lamb.

7. *Cotton Manufacturing.*

In his will Joseph Lamb also mentions a "certain Copartnership Concern in the Cotton Manufacturing Business carried on at or near Dalston in the said County of Cumberland under the Firm of Lamb Hebson and Company," of which he bequeaths two-thirds of his share to his son, Warren. The other third presumably went with

* *History of Northumberland*, issued by the Northumberland County History Committee, Vol. VIII, p. 22.

the residue of his estate to his eldest son. There is no other information about this business.

8. *Brewery.*

He also leaves to his son Warren all his share in the Common Brewery at Brampton, but does not say whether he was a partner in this concern, or merely a shareholder.

9. *Glass-making.*

Joseph Lamb was also a glass-maker, being a partner in the "Northumberland Glass Company carried on at and in the neighbourhood of Newcastle," his share in which he left to his youngest son, Joseph.



HUMBLE LAMB, 1773-1844

CHAPTER VIII

The Lambs of Ryton :

Joseph Lamb's Descendants

HUMBLE LAMB

HUMBLE LAMB, Joseph Lamb's eldest son, was baptized on December 27th, 1773, at St. Nicholas', Newcastle. He was educated at Newcastle Grammar School, and Trinity College, Cambridge, to which he was admitted on June 26th, 1794: he afterwards moved to Emmanuel College, to be under a famous Mathematical Tutor there, and was Sixth Wrangler in 1798. As far as we know, Humble was the first member of the Lamb family to go to the University. On his father's death in December 1800 he succeeded to the Ryton estate, being then about twenty-seven years of age.

A good deal of the little information we have about Humble is gleaned from the letters of John Bowes Wright*, who was a friend of both Humble and his brothers, but especially of the youngest brother, Joseph. It is from a letter of 1801 in this voluminous and vivacious correspondence that we hear of Humble's unsuccessful love affair.

I called upon Mrs. J——n and finding her alone kissed her sallow cheek, but may my enemy enjoy the second; she's looking detestably ill; had Humble got her, I should have been tempted through pity to have rid him of his wretched life; she's degenerated into a mere household drudge as to her manners.

In August 1802 Humble married Jane Chatto, daughter of Alexander Chatto of Main House, in the Parish of Eckford, Roxburghshire. The marriage took place on either the 26th or the 31st at Main House. Alexander Chatto married on October 27th, 1776,

* P. 38.

at Kelso, Elizabeth Waldie, and Humble Lamb therefore became connected by marriage with the Waldies of Hendersyde Park, his mother-in-law being the sister of George Waldie of Hendersyde, who was his father's friend and executor. The marriage seems to have been a very happy one, and Jane Chatto was both respected and beloved by her husband's relations and friends. On December 6th, 1819, she died, leaving her husband with a young family, the eldest of whom was sixteen. After his wife's death, Humble travelled abroad a great deal, spending two or three years in Italy and Switzerland with his family. In 1822 J. B. Wright, in a letter to Joseph, says :

Along with yours I found a long letter from Humble, dated Turin, June 11th, giving me an account of various *malheurs de route*. I told him he would be d——y plagued by the Felucca lads of Lerici, and he found my words true. They also found the heat excessive and his favourite horse Abdallah was struck by a *coup de soleil* and expired in the Plains of Marengo. H. loudly laments his death, but has replaced him for thirty Louis with a horse of St. Gall. He writes in excellent spirits and proceeds to convey his little colony to Vevey.

“ The Squire of Vevey ” became a nickname by which Humble was known among his friends. Again in 1824, in a letter from Vevey, Wright says :

I have been here a few days and passing a very pleasant time with Humble. . . . I enjoy exceedingly the society of Humble and a select few here whom he has made his friends. . . . I found Humble's family all well and himself in great form. The fine weather is returned and we have been enjoying the beautiful promenades in this vicinity. This morning we were on the lake seeing the taking of the *Ombre-chevalier*, its choicest kind of fish, and *d'un gusto veramente stupendo* we shall partake of some of it to-day *chez M. Otto*, a very gallant character, with whom we dine. Humble wrote to you a day or two ago and yesterday received a letter from you, by which we learn that in a very short time you will certainly be enveloped in the matrimonial chain. . . . He is expecting the St. Clairs* here in ten days, after which he, Joe† and I intend going to the Grand Chartreuse, Marseilles, etc. In a few days he quits “ Les

* Humble's sister-in-law, Isabella Mary Chatto, married Lord Sinclair on September 18th, 1816.

† Humble's eldest son, Joseph Chatto Lamb.

Belles Truches ” and goes into a charming house about half a league off, now inhabited by the famille Crespigny.

Of Humble Lamb's business affairs, tastes and character, we know very little. In the local Directory for 1824 he is described as “ fitter ” for Bewicke, Craster's Wallsend, Northumberland Wallsend, Percy Main, Charlotte Main, and Earsdon Main Collieries, and in Directories of 1827-8 and 1833-4 the firm of Humble Lamb and Co. is given as coal-owners and viewers for the same collieries. As far as we know, he was not engaged in any other business besides the coal trade. Of the three Lamb brothers it used to be said: “ Joseph Lamb made money, Humble Lamb kept it, Warren Lamb spent it.” Humble evidently inherited his father's brain-power, as he was Sixth Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge, although he did not turn it to such practical account.

Both he and his eldest son, Joseph Chatto Lamb, were on the Committee of Management for the building of the suspension bridge over the river Tyne at Scotswood, about four miles west of Newcastle, and attended the opening on April 12th, 1831.

The morning was ushered in by peals of bells from the churches of that town. At twelve o'clock Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, and John Hodgson, esq., M.P. for Newcastle, met the committee of management, the proprietors, and various other friends of the undertaking at the Assembly-rooms, from whence, after a short time, on a signal being given from the guns of the castle, the procession set forward in the following manner, viz:—full band of music; banners; banner of the bridge with the motto “ *Coelo pendit iter, ripas vinxere catenae* ”; town marshal on horseback; sword bearer on horseback; the architect of the bridge (Mr. Green), on horseback; the carriage and four of the Mayor of Newcastle; the carriage and four of the sheriff of Northumberland (George Silvertop, esq.); the carriage and four of John Hodgson, esq., M.P., the carriage of Mrs. Hodgson; four carriages and four, containing the Committee of management, viz.:—Humble Lamb, Matthew Wheatley, George Hepple Ramsay, Matthias Dunn, Matthew Wheatley, jun., John Mulcaster, George Thomas Dunn, Joseph C. Lamb, esquires, and Mr. Thomas Grieve-son, the honorary secretary; the carriage and four of Lord Decies; the carriage and four of Humble Lamb, esq.; the royal mail-coach with a flag flying; a long train of carriages followed (between 80 and 90), and the rear was closed by a great number of gentlemen on horseback. On the procession entering on the

bridge, by a precaution which was afterwards proved to have been unnecessary, the carriages passed over at a considerable distance asunder; and when the carriage of the Rector of Ryton (the rev. Charles Thorp), approached the centre, it was stopped, and the blessing of Heaven on that bold and important work of man was most reverently and feelingly invoked by that reverend and respected individual. . . . The strength of the bridge was soon after put to a much severer test, for as soon as the procession had passed over (no person being allowed to go on until the procession had returned) the gates being opened, the crowds of people who had been previously assembled at each end, rushed with impetuosity, on to the bridge, in the centre of which they were soon collected in so dense a mass as to be incapable of moving, and putting the bridge to a severe trial. No fewer than 3,000 persons were collected between the points of suspension, making, with those on the ends, a crowd of between 5,000 and 6,000 persons. After repassing the bridge, the procession returned in the same order to the Assembly-rooms, where it arrived about four o'clock, amidst the ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of rejoicing. Soon after five o'clock, the committee, subscribers, and other friends of the undertaking sat down to an elegant dinner, and spent the evening with the utmost conviviality.*

Humble Lamb seems to have been very widely respected. He was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Durham, and the Court Room in which Petty Sessions were held was in Ryton House in his time. He took an active interest in the affairs of Tyneside, and became a Freeman of Newcastle, as a member of the Hostmen's Company, in which he had been enrolled in 1792 as the apprentice of Robert Newton. There is a portrait of him in a bearskin coat in the possession of his grandson, William Rutherford Lamb of Goldsboro' Hall, Yorks. The only letter of his we possess will be found in the account of his younger brother, Warren, as it deals exclusively with the latter's affairs. He died on April 13th, 1844, very suddenly of apoplexy. In *Latimer's Local Records* we find:—

April 13th, 1844. As Humble Lamb, Esq., of Ryton, a highly respected magistrate of Northumberland and Durham, was walking in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, he was suddenly affected with a fit of apoplexy and died instantaneously. He was in his seventy-first year.

* *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV., pp. 70 and 71.



CHARLES JOHN LAMB
YOUNGEST SON OF HUMBLE LAMB

He was buried in the family vault at Ryton. His will is at Goldsboro' Hall.

JOSEPH CHATTO LAMB

Humble's eldest son, Joseph Chatto Lamb, born September 28th, 1803, at Ryton Hall, was educated at Durham School and Edinburgh University. He travelled a good deal on the Continent with his family in his youth, and used to say that the happiest days of his life were those spent at "Chaponaire," Vevey, with his father and his family. He was a man of a most cheerful and genial disposition: his cousin, Richard Westbrook Lamb, used to say that he was the most cheerful man he knew. He was very fond of riding, and one of his sayings was: "Stick to the pig-skin!" In later life he took an active interest in the evangelical mission work done in Newcastle by Dr. John Hunter Rutherford.

On January 24th, 1839, he married at Edgerston House, Eleanor Oliver Rutherford, fifth daughter of William Oliver Rutherford (J.P., D.L., and Convener of Co. Roxburgh) of Edgerston, Co. Roxburgh, near Jedburgh. W. O. Rutherford had married in 1804 Agnes Chatto, daughter of Alexander Chatto, and Eleanor Rutherford was therefore first cousin to her husband. They had three sons and three daughters, of whom Helen Lamb married her cousin, Robert Ormston Lamb (p. 132). The eldest surviving son, William Rutherford Lamb, born December 3rd, 1847, now lives at Goldsboro' Hall, Knaresboro', Yorks, and his son, Algernon Joseph Lamb, distinguished himself in the war of 1914-18, winning the D.S.O. and also being presented on the field of battle with the Croix de Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. The youngest son, Joseph Chatto Lamb, born April 15th, 1850, was an M.A. of Jesus College, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar, Inner Temple, in 1875. He practised on the North-Eastern Circuit until 1880. He entered the Church in 1881; was Rector of Egginton, Derbyshire, 1888-1901, and of Rise, East Yorkshire, 1901-1910. On October 27th, 1881, he married Frances Augusta Morand of Philadelphia, U.S.A.

WARREN MAUDE LAMB

Warren Maude Lamb, Joseph Lamb's second son, was baptized at Ryton on July 16th, 1780, and was educated at Edinburgh University. There is an amusing letter from J. B. Wright in 1802, requesting Warren's younger brother, Joseph, who was travelling in Flanders, to purchase stockings for them both:—

Warren and I wish you to procure us each half a dozen pairs of white silk stockings, if as we suppose you can procure them extremely cheap, 8 or 10s. per pair for instance. But let them be the best and with *very large* clocks and the colour of a pink shade: and you may mark them with our names or use any other requisite for escaping the Corberi at the Custom house. We shall expect a detailed account of the comparative difference in price of the various articles of fashion or necessity between London and Paris, as also of the society, etc., of the latter.

He adds a postscript to the letter: "If extremely cheap, 3 or 4 pair black silk with large clocks."

Warren married on January 10th, 1810, at Ryton, Sarah Hunter, daughter of Robert Hunter of Medomsley, Co. Durham, and Bunker Hill in the same county, and had four daughters and three sons. His wife died on December 30th, 1825, and immediately afterwards he was declared a bankrupt, to surrender in February 1826. His father had bequeathed him a share in the calico-printing business at Carlisle, in the cotton-manufacturing business at Dalston, and in the Brampton Brewery, the combined value of which was probably ten thousand pounds. He was also engaged in the coal trade, and was often playfully referred to as "the Fitter" among his family and friends. In the *Newcastle Directory* for 1824 he is given as fitter for Wortley, Newcastle Main, King's Meadows, Holywell, Newburn and Beaumont Main Collieries. He is said to have owned coal at Tanfield. He is also said to have been a partner in the Northumberland Glass Works. Out of these and similar activities his father and younger brother made fortunes, but within sixteen years of his marriage Warren Lamb was in the Bankruptcy Court. John B. Wright wrote to Joseph Lamb on January 9th, 1826:

I am very sorry indeed for the poor Fitter. If he has been imprudent, he has also been most unfortunate; independent of the melancholy event you mention he must long have had his mind filled with anxiety and bitter reflection. Should what you anticipate take place, it may perhaps be the best thing for him under the circumstances, and it will free him from a torturing load of harassing cares, and enable him to recommence under better auspices, free from embarrassment and with a deep felt experience for his guide.

Probably Wright's estimate was correct, and Warren's failure to manage his affairs was partly a matter of bad luck, and partly due to his impulsive and imprudent temperament. A characteristic little story of him in his youth is told by Wright, when they were travelling together in Wales in 1802 as young students. They had been seeing over a mine belonging to Lord Uxbridge.

On leaving the shaft one of the men who had explained the process of blasting, followed us and asked for something to drink. Conceive my surprise when Warren cried out like Birkett, "You shall have 5 shillings": for by this rule the old man who had accompanied us the whole time and been of infinitely more service than the other, would have believed himself to be entitled to 10; and I had determined upon 5 for the whole. The error was to be retrieved therefore, and it was done successfully. . . . I summoned our numerous followers around us, told the fellow who had come up in the strength of his promise that it was a mistake, show'd a 7 shilling piece which I declared to be what was intended for the whole, and stating the merits of each, assigned 3s. to the old man, 3s. to the fellow who had been promised 5, for himself and companions, and one to the old man who had held the horses, and as this division was equitable, it was pretty generally approved.

It seems likely that Warren always found it difficult to make both ends meet. His brother Joseph, writing on February 2nd, 1823, says: "The Fitter again begins to feel bad times," as if it were something that had occurred before. His wife appears to have been no help to him in this matter, but rather the reverse. She was only nineteen when she married, and was young and gay and extravagant. Joseph Lamb, in another letter dated November 1st, 1824, says: "Mrs. Fitter, I hear, kicks against the retrenchments, but she must consent to that or she will find soon that worse remains behind." She does not seem to have been a woman of very high principles, and her husband's family did not feel any great respect for her.

After his wife's death, he was left with seven children, the eldest of whom was fifteen, and very straitened means to bring them up on. As far as we can gather Warren seems to have spent the rest of his life in living beyond his means and being rescued by his friends and relations at intervals. At various times there are allusions to their attempts to find him some post, by which he could support himself and family with care; but we never hear whether they were successful in finding one, and he certainly did not support himself by its means if they did. J. B. Wright, writing to Joseph on June 9th, 1828, says:

I wrote to Warren before I left London giving him consolation and also advice to be on his guard for the future and on no account to exceed his present allowance, as it was assuredly the Manager's last kick. Mention what kind of a passage he had, and how he finds himself in his new abode.

Probably the allusion in the last sentence is to his removal to Jersey, where we know he was installed prior to 1833. On June 7th, 1830, Wright says:

I should tell you that before I left London I had an interview with Buddle, who told me he would write immediately to H. and press him to come to some conclusion on the Fitter's affairs. I also wrote to the said Fitter and told him that I thought under certain limitations something might be done by H.; but I mixed the hopes I gave him, with some salutary cautions. I trust something has been arranged for him, he must not be deserted.

Apparently no satisfactory arrangement was come to, for on May 12th, 1832, we find Humble writing to J. B. Wright, evidently in answer to further representations on the subject, as follows:

Dear Rappe,*

I enclose you J. Surtees' queer little letter, quite fit for little Aubone to peck at. I wish we could get the Fitter as clerk into some of the public offices. I think Lambton might place him at £150 a year or so. I wish I could give him more than £50, but I have many engagements to meet, and until Haswell is over I will not promise more. If I had the money back he has taken, it would enable me to give him a fine allowance, but a man's own engagements and family ought to be his first concern, and no man should hang on the labours

* Short for Raphael, one of Wright's nicknames.

of others without making some endeavour for himself! As for sending coals, it is like giving them away, as he sends no returns, I am quite sure that he will live on no allowance that will be given him, neither has he ever done so since the Bankruptcy, but still has incurred more debt. Aubone's must then have arisen since the Bankruptcy, as well as several others still outstanding in Newcastle. He holds no restraint on himself, and will bring down suffering, as it is quite impossible for him now with his means to live as a Gentleman and do nothing. The Master* has now an increasing family and engagements to meet though his children are yet young and do not require so much.

Yours truly

H. L.

Temple the Linen Draper enquires after him, as well as the Indian Kings and Dog and Duck, never forgetting honest John Newby.

From this letter it is clear that Warren Lamb had made no serious effort since his bankruptcy to pull his affairs together and to support himself and his family. He died on July 23rd, 1841, in Jersey, where some of his descendants still live. His second son, Frederick Hunter Lamb, was Master of the Newcastle and Gateshead Harriers for many years.

HARRIET LAMB

Harriet Lamb, the only daughter of Joseph Lamb to survive childhood, married on March 8th, 1798, Robert Scott of Shincliffe Park, Co. Durham. Robert Scott's father lived at Selaby Park before the Maudes, and his mother, Helen Rutherford, was great-aunt to Sir Walter Scott, whose mother, Anne, was the daughter of John Rutherford, M.D.

Of Robert and Harriet Scott's children, the elder daughter, Sarah, married George Broadrick (great-grandson of Sir John Fife of Newcastle, whose family were connected with the Kirkpatricks of Closeburn, and thus related to the Empress Eugenie), and died young without issue. The younger daughter, Helen, married Captain Francis Fead, R.N., of Brook Hall, Nr. Woolwich. He was born in 1787 at Portsmouth, entered the Navy, and was constantly in active service from 1800-1814. He was in an open boat just before the battle of Alexandria, and saw an Arab waving a flag. From this man

* A nickname for Joseph Lamb the younger.

he learned that the French were preparing to attack the British and had served out ammunition for that purpose, and was thus enabled to frustrate their plan by informing Sir Sidney Smith, who asked him to keep his secret for some years. He served under Nelson on the French coast during the threatened invasion. He was a great favourite at Court, particularly with Princess Sophia Matilda and the Duke of Gloucester, the latter standing godfather to one of his children. Another of the children, Henrietta Josephine Fead, was a very clever painter, and had a picture of a Neapolitan girl in the Academy in 1887.

William Scott, the only son of Robert and Harriet, married at Cheltenham in 1831 Georgiana Herries, granddaughter of Sir Robert Herries, the inventor of circular notes.



JOSEPH LAMB THE YOUNGER, 1781-1859

CHAPTER IX

Joseph Lamb the Younger:

Youth (1781-1824)

JOSEPH, the youngest son of Joseph Lamb of Ryton, was born on November 11th, 1781, at Cross House (p. 36), Newcastle. He resembled his father in character and business capacity far more closely than either of the other sons, and their lives were singularly alike in some respects. Both were youngest sons, both spent most of their lives and energies in Newcastle, and both were devoted to their business. Indeed their business was to them not only a duty and a means of livelihood, but a passion.

We know nothing of Joseph's childhood and but little of his boyhood. There is a tradition that he used to ride every day from Ryton Hall on his pony past Lemington, and was ferried across the river to Newburn, where he studied with the Vicar. Probably most of his time was passed quietly between Ryton and Cross House. Our first definite information about him is in 1798, when he was about sixteen. In June 1798 he was made a "Cornet in a Troop of Cavalry of the Association of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Ryton and its neighbourhood in the County of Durham associated to serve without pay, for the Protection thereof, in case of any Emergency, at the Requisition of the Civil Power, but not to take Rank in our Army, nor the said Association to be subject to Military Discipline, or to serve out of the said Parish and its neighbourhood, except of their own accord."*

These volunteer troops were being raised all over England at this time, owing to the fears of a French invasion. Five years later, Joseph received a Captain's Commission "in the corps of Percy Tenantry Volunteer Riflemen but not to take Rank in the Army,

* Commission granted by George III on June 5th, 1798.

except during the time of the said Corps being called out into actual service.”*

In 1799 Joseph, with his elder brother, Warren, was attending classes at Edinburgh University. At the end of the following year his father died. During the next few years Joseph divided his time between travelling abroad and attending to business in Newcastle. In his youth he appears to have been fond of travelling, but very soon seems to have become almost entirely engrossed in his business and local politics and affairs, and in later life he went abroad only on account of his health, or at the urgent desire of his wife, who writes of him in her diary in 1842 that he “always quits England with remorse.” Most of our information with regard to the early period of his life, until the time of his marriage, is gleaned from his correspondence with John Bowes Wright, the greatest friend of his youth. In the earlier letters Joseph is always addressed as “Cassimir,” while “Raphael” or “Rappe” seems to have been a nickname of Wright throughout his life. He writes to Joseph in 1809, when they were contemplating a visit to Scotland together,

But remember I expect you will not be eternally wishing to be back again till we are both sated with enjoyment and that the term will not be determined by the call of business, but the defalcation of pleasure. I thought you would never live for posterity but I see I must yet admonish you in the words of Horace:

Linguenda tellus et domus et placens
Uxor: neque horum, quas colis, arborum
Te, prater invisas cupressos
Ulla brevum dominum sequeter.†

Apparently Joseph, though still a young man of not quite twenty-eight years of age, was already showing signs of that absorption in business, which was one of the chief characteristics of his later life. He could however abandon himself to pleasure on occasion, as is shown by the following account in the local papers in 1810 of a great ball given by him to his friends:

* Commission granted by George III on July 30th, 1803.

† *Horace*, Book II, Ode 14, ll. 21-24.

On Thursday evening an elegant masked ball and supper were given at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, by Joseph Lamb, Esq., to a company consisting of nearly 200 persons, which, for novelty and elegance, surpassed any former entertainment remembered in this town. Between 9 and 10 the rooms were opened for the reception of the company, and were soon afterwards crowded; from the superior abilities displayed by the characters, and the splendid appearance of many of the dresses, the masquerade passed off with the greatest mirth, and seemed to be enjoyed by all present. At 1, the company adjourned to the supper room, where Mrs. Brodie had provided every delicacy of the season, to carry the intention of the liberal donor as fully into effect as possible. Champagne and other wines were placed in profusion upon the tables, many toasts appropriate to the festive meeting were given and drank with enthusiasm. Between 3 and 4 the dancing commenced, and the grotesque appearance of the characters, where gypsies, Quakers, fortune-tellers, nuns, devils, monks, harlequins, officers, etc., etc., joined in the sprightly amusement, rendered the scene in the highest degree diverting, not only to the dancers, but to the spectators. The party separated at 6 o'clock.

A long list follows of those present, with descriptions of the characters they represented, Joseph himself going "as a monk, and an Indian prince." Two of the company came as "pit lads with fighting cocks, that fought a battle for the amusement of the company"!

We do not know in what year Joseph Lamb took Lemington Hall, but he was certainly there in 1814, when we have an amusing account of Joseph and his devotion to business and to his musical box (evidently a recent invention), in a letter from his brother, Warren, to Wright:

Newcastle.

Dec. 27. 1814.

My dear Wright,

It is now about *thirteen* years since I had the pleasure of passing my Christmas in Paris. I remember the time with pleasure, and trust *you* are enjoying yourself at this time as much as I did at that period: were you with your friends here it would make us very happy, as you well know how much you are prized by us all. But I trust when you do return, it will be to stay much longer with us, and that you will still prefer the North to any other place for a place of settlement. Joe is well and with *redoubled ardour* searching after wealth! His musical box is as much his companion as his lamp was Aladdin's,

and unless allured by the cry of *gold* boxes for *wood* ones, I think they will never be separated. My wife and Mrs. Surtees wished to possess *the box, the musical box* for a few hours hourly (sic) to get the tune by the ear to play to the piano, but, alas! quoth He, I cannot even for a moment part with it! Humble is still at Ryton, but will soon be here for the winter. The gaieties are here only beginning, the theatre has opened, the Mansion House Ball will be this week, and the Hedleys promise a treat most luxurious with their Master Shafto as *Preses* on the occasion. Of McBriane I have heard or seen little since his manful attack for the half year's rent, but I hear he revels much at Shields with the old party there. I called on Waterville a few days hence on Quirk, where judge my horror at seeing *an owl* had flown into your quarry! an owl more blasted too than him whom you found in the Miss Burfield's! Think my dear Lad of the Home Department, nor let the Foreign Department take up all your time, for believe me what has happened may happen again and women since the time of Mother Eve still love variety, and a devil when present, is more likely to captivate them than an absent lover. It is now an immense time since you have written to me, I believe not since your return to Paris; to you I have written three or four times so do answer my various demands on you. I told you in my last I was anxious for three or four yards of Brussels lace for my wife, and anything you thought might please her or myself for which I would pay the Bon Homme William.* I am anxious for a snuff box *quite French* of your chusing, tho' Joe has *boxed* the Town (musically) in a way never before heard of, after him let no man think of carrying a musical box in Newcastle. Wright and Lewis have two but the sale of them is ruined by the magical sweetness of that of Alnaschar! Joe is much at Lemington. When H. comes in he will be more at N.C.

In 1817 Joseph went for a long tour on the Continent, of which he gives an account to his mother in the following letter:

Milan. Italy.

October 12th, 1817.

Dear Mother,

I still continue my travels, but as the season becomes late, in a few days I shall return and take the route towards England. I expect to see Wright in 2 or 3 days, and he will set me part of my way back from Genoa. I have enjoyed myself much throughout my peregrinations, first in Flanders and Holland, where my old friends received me with great kindness, and where I view with satisfaction the industry and apparent contentment of the busy

* J. B. Wright's brother, William Wright.

Dutchman. I generally travelled on the roof of the Frecht Schuyt, and, meeting some English friends, I often went with them. I next viewed the famed field of Waterloo, and gathered some of the spoils left by the French Imperial guards; these productions had afterwards nearly occasioned me some trouble, for on the French frontier the guards seized them as emblems of the rebellious enemies to the Bourbon Government. I pleaded my cause at last effectually and had them returned to me as curiosities under a promise that I would not shew them anywhere. I next visited the English camps at Valenciennes and at Cambray, and after viewing the famed Cathedral there, I proceeded in company with some Polish Lancers to Paris.

I met in Holland and Flanders many beauties, and thought I should have been tempted to have returned to see a rich and enchanting Friesland heiress, but the lovely Parisian fair have in part changed my mind. At Paris, where the people seem to combine to create pleasure, I had great delight, and luckily I met my friend Mr. Wilson there from London, with a party, and together we made continual excursions, and viewed with extasy the productions of art, the French opera, and other theatres, as well as Versailles. We passed from this wonderful palace to the Great and Little Trianons, two beautiful Palaces, formerly the residence of Madame de Maintenon and Madame Pompadour. The late Queen of France resided often at the Little Trianon, and the grounds are laid out prettily to represent an English pleasure-ground, with a farm and village and a pretty tower which is alluded to in the song of Malbrook.

I was with a party admitted to Mass with the King and Royal Family, which was very grand, hundreds of Parisian and foreign ladies, splendidly dressed, appeared on all sides, and the Duchesses of Angouleme and Berri, with their splendid retinue, added a charm to the scene. I was introduced to the famous French actor, Talma, to the French Institute and saw there the renowned characters of France, some English and the great traveller Humboldt.

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Wright is accompanied by a noble Roman, and meets me from Leghorn at Genoa, I pass by Pavia and Marengo. We afterwards make excursions and they leave me at Torino to proceed to Paris, whilst they go to Venice, Rome and Naples. I hope the fine weather may continue until I arrive at Paris, where after a short stay I shall pass to London and so home in November. I shall try to smuggle you some trifles, and remain, dear Mother,

Sincerely yours,

J. LAMB.

We perhaps hardly realize the difference between travelling nowadays and in those times, when there were no railways, and all

journeys had to be undertaken in coaches or private carriages, and there were still very real dangers to be faced from brigands, etc. John Bowes Wright tells several stories of travellers being attacked by brigands about this date.

The following day we saw the spot where Col. Leicester and Lady C. Beresford were robbed; it was in going up a hill in the wood between Sesto and Cascina. The Italian Bandits generally select such a spot for these operations. They were masked and armed at all points with carbines, etc. After rushing out of the thicket, they commanded all the party to alight and fall with their faces to the ground, their carbines being pointed whilst they gave the order of "Faccia alla terra." The police officers at Sesto told me that none of them have yet been taken, three men were in custody but nothing had appeared to identify them with the robbery.*

We had long heard that all this country was infested with banditti but having hitherto seen nothing of the kind, we began to consider these reports as in great measure unfounded: however, in traversing the large forest on the other side of Bolsena, horrible to relate, we passed the body of a young man who had been robbed and murdered a few hours before, and left lying in the middle of the road; the alarm had been given and a detachment of soldiers from Bolsena sent to the spot. Two of them were guarding the body by the roadside, as we passed, the others were proceeding to make search after the assassins in the forest; the unfortunate man had been shot through the shoulder and through the hand.†

We heard of numerous robberies both before and behind us, and indeed only a short time preceding, there had been a skirmish between the troops and the brigands, near Loreto, and two of the latter killed. You can form no idea of the excesses which are carrying on in this way both in the Roman and Neapolitan states. In Nov. last an attempt was made to carry off Lucien Bonaparte from his house near Frascati; he was however fortunate enough to escape by a private staircase and the robbers by mistake took his secretary off to the mountains: his master was afterwards obliged to ransom him for 500 crowns. Only the other day they carried off two of the wealthiest possidenti of Tivoli, and they were only released after paying a very large ransom. In fact things will never be better so long as the Government continues to compromise with the Banditti. It was only a few days ago that I went to see a whole horde of brigands in the Castel St. Angelo, who had surrendered themselves under a

* Letter of October 28th, 1816.

† Letter of January 19th, 1817.

proclamation of Card. Gonsalvi, on condition of being imprisoned a year and then turned loose again. Besides plenty of money which they have, they are allowed much higher daily pay than the soldiers. Now, one of these men has acknowledged having in his time killed 25 people; another had a rich shawl round his waist which had evidently been plundered from some lady. Grazia, the wife of one of them, was a most beautiful woman, and indeed amongst the men there were some of the finest looking specimens of Italian peasants I had yet seen. As a farther instance of this system, I may add that Barboni, the famous Robber of Mount Algidus, has now carried on his depredations for above six years. In short, this part of Italy will never be safe till like Ali Pacha, they not only hang the robber, but every member of his family, making each answerable for the good conduct of the rest; this is certainly a cruel remedy, but by invariably practising it, Ali has now rendered Greece one of the safest countries in Europe.*

Early in 1818 Joseph Lamb seems to have suffered from some indisposition at Stamford, and to have begun a new love-affair. The story of his meeting with the lady who was afterwards to become his wife is that there was a coach accident at Stamford, in which he was injured, that he was carried into the house of Dr. Michael, where he was nursed, and that he fell in love with the doctor's young daughter, a beautiful girl of sixteen. If this story is correct, the illness referred to in the following extract from Bowes Wright's letter of March 7th, 1818, is probably this accident, and the love affair is the beginning of the attachment which ended in Joseph's marriage. Amelia Michael was about fifteen at this time.

Roma. March 7. 1818.

My dearest Joe,

It rejoices me exceedingly to find you in such force and so well recovered from the sprain or gout or whatever it was that tormented you at Stamford; for like Falstaff, you seem to equivocate upon the nature of your malady! I hear you are fallen too into a new love affair, ay, and seriously; in your next let me know some details of it. Since my return here I delivered your letter to Niebuhr.† He was extremely civil and I had a long conversation with him; he remembered you well and asked various questions about you. I find however he is very shy in giving parties, tho' he has very nice apartments for it, within the old walls of the Teatro di Marcello. We have on the contrary had

* Letter of March 7th, 1818.

† Barthold Georg Niebuhr, 1776-1831, German statesman and historian.

brilliant balls and parties at the Austrian, Neapolitan, etc., Ministers'; but not one *chez M. Niebuhr*!

It was probably at Edinburgh University that Joseph Lamb and Niebuhr became acquainted, for Niebuhr spent a year there, 1798-99, studying agriculture and physical science, while Joseph Lamb was also studying there. From 1816 to 1823 Niebuhr was Ambassador at Rome, and this was the position he was holding when Wright visited him there, apparently with a letter of introduction from Joseph Lamb.

For the next three years, 1818-21, we hear practically nothing of Joseph's life. Wright's letters are all addressed to him at Newcastle, and from allusions in them Joseph seems to have been immersed in business. In 1821 and 1822 they made several trips abroad together, but in 1823 and 1824 Joseph's attention was chiefly taken up by his approaching marriage, as the following correspondence between him and Bowes Wright shows:

Newcastle.

February 2. 1823.

Dear and gallant Raphael,

Whilst you remain amongst the gay and warmaking French, your friend is engaged in the most delightful adventures of love and glory. I have been for some time in the south and wrote you before I set out. I am just returned but find no reply, I suspect the letter has been intercepted or that you have broken your oaths and become the lover of Terrien. But to return I have become devoted and attached to excess to the most beautiful and most charming woman in England, perhaps in Europe or in the world. Her mind, playful and innocent, her disposition sweet, and figure elegant. I am preparing to surrender all to her, to become her knight and love, always provided the sensations become reciprocal. I never was so attracted before, and never can be again. I put all my happiness and fortune in one little bark, and if she will enter it with me, together we will sail down the stream of life. I have lived long enough single and for pleasure, now I want mon Eurydice pour toujours. La Belle est Catholique, tant mieux, I find a charm in that religion not experienced by Protestants, and but for the *bruit* it would make, I should return to the original Eglise. I left ma Belle only to return, and I shall be at her feet again à Paque ou a la Trinité. If we go to seek a blessing of Pope Pius, can you give us any introduction that will bring us through Park to his presence?

The Belle is angelic, her mind full of Heaven and divine matter, and life without her friendship and smiles will, I fear, become insipid to me. Many of my friends do not like the Catholiques (Mrs. Eaton, J. Maude, the Waldies, etc.) mais c'est egal, I like them and would give my life and fortune pour la jeune Emilie. I thus put you confidentially au courant, and will let you know more as we proceed.

We have a terrible winter, for two months nothing but continually storms, deep snow on the ground, and our rivers for three weeks frozen or not navigable. It puts us above bridge into vexatious positions with our coals, and instead of receiving money, I have had to make continued advances to keep all alive. It may do good for the rest of the year, but a fine day lowers the London market sadly.

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Write soon with all your chères nouvelles and believe me always, whether single, married, Protestant or Catholic.

Your friend and comrade

JOSEPH.

Wright replied in his letter of February 19th:

My dear Joe,

Partly from the distractions of the place, partly from hearing you were from home, I put off from time to time answering your former letter which, as well as your other, arrived safe. I fear from all accounts you are going to allow chains to be thrown over you. Humble in a letter I lately had from him, says, "I hear Joe is decidedly for the noose, but whether for Betty or Dolly is not yet announced"! Well, you are the best judge, if you think your happiness involved "Ne sit ancillae tibi amor pudori." Life is short and fleeting and the advice of Horace is *carpe diem*. But at the same time *my advice* is, think well upon it, do nothing rashly, weigh the charms and the imperfections of your Inamorata accurately. Examine her most secret thoughts, her unguarded moments, and be sure before you pay the vast price that it is for sterling stuff. You ask me, if you go to Rome, to seek the Pope's blessing, whether I can get you into his presence thro' the Consul Park; that I certainly can do, by giving you a letter to him, and, what is more, it is *possible* I might be tempted to accompany you and see *la bella Italia* once more. For my own part, should I ever marry, it will not be for some time yet; I must see more countries and follow the dictates of my naturally wandering disposition. But in the end, if I survive, married or single, I shall fix myself somewhere near you and pass the rest of my life *en vrai philosophe* and in the society of my oldest friend.

It was not however till a year later that Joseph definitely announced his approaching marriage to Wright, as follows:—

Newcastle. March 7, 1824.

My dear Le Droit,

I was glad indeed to observe the spirit manifested in your last letter, it proved to me you could leave Calypso, for I feared you were nearly lost by the attachment shown to the Belle Comedienne. To be plain with you, I have found my own love so great for the most charming, the most excellent of women, I have resolved to devote myself to her, and I have found (myself) more happy and more gay since I determined upon it. *Oui, mon brave ami*, I give myself in May to the Bella Donna, I shall first tour en Ecosse and then reside here and at L. until July, after that proceed to the Continent, and I hope to find you quite ready to join us for Rome, Naples, and Florence. I shall make the tour rapid and neat, and I trust with your fund of knowledge, you will very quickly put us au fait as a noble virtuoso and friendly guide, and when we return home, I hope you will not delay very long abroad. We have had sad losses here, death has been terrible indeed, he has cut at the first, the best of men, and also at a relation of Humble's, in fact we have lost Père Chatto at Plymouth, but how will you grieve when I have to state the noble Galvez, my tutor Bruno, the Vicar of Gainford, is no more ! ! *Domus et tellus et placens uxor*, all are lost to him. He was kicked on the shin by a horse, and from his surgeon's ignorance and attaching no dread to a slight wound, he neglected it and in a short time a gangrene succeeded and killed him. This misery and distress to our finer feelings has been increased by an attack on our worldly affairs. The Minister anxious for popularity and to give the public cheap coals, has resolved in a rascally way to admit canal coals to London on a duty of 1s. 3d. per chaldron, whilst Newcastle are to be charged 6s. This would in the end be very fatal, for during war or at any period of scarcity of ships, their imports would be immense, and we would have our prices crushed to atoms. To endeavour to bring the Minister to reason, we have sent Buddle, N. Clayton, and W. Brandling to London, and we hope they may succeed but it is uncertain. In the meantime the mild winter and the idea of reduced duties have together almost brought the trade to a standstill, and we are literally doing nothing. Our staiths are full, our keelmen starving and the pitmen threatening to stick. In short from prosperity we are fast moving to destruction. Another woe, we have spent £500 at Hallowell in boring and have made many drifts, but we find a terrible dike cuts up the field of coal, one half, and it seems actually to threaten destruction to the adventure. We will however go on exploring, and if there is any chance proceed.

Seghill is begun, and I think will do if the Minister is brought back to justice, otherwise, *mon cher Raphael*, nous serons tous perdus. I do not like the parties much tho' I do the coal. It will be costly, and may have troubles, but a good coal and a free rate would pay. At Cramlington we have difficulties, but if the minister allows, the army is ready to march. The steam boat is abandoned, the small proprietors would have been troublesome, and I have no time to head these navigators now. The funds are splendid. Don't sell. Europe is and will long be tranquil. If you sold out where would you invest? No, you have good interest, and when you want your money, high profit is sure. Helen Scott* and the Maudes are at the Waldies, she is fat and well. Sa. Maude† will marry this year to Egremont. The Boy Bill‡ is well, he will be out this spring. He is anxious for adventure, and is fond of money now. Cobbett is great still. The worthy soul thinks we dare not protect America against the Holy Alliance and predicts North America will wish to crush freedom in the South as contrary to their interests. In this he seems wrong, but he fears the new Government will not stand. The Belle Elizabeth is at length married, after the match being broken off by the bridegroom running off and Kepler chasing him! Claude Anet declared his mind had changed the day of the wedding, Bet went into fits, Claude fled. In a fortnight he was subdued again and they are chained together, with what prospect of happiness God knows. Your brother makes a capital Mayor, he has introduced hackney coaches, removed nuisances, changed markets, and done l'impossible.

I have ordered a carriage and am fitting up rooms both for bride and bridesmaid. I now wish I was married, I have been again at Stamford and seen often the Belle Miguel. The Fitter § promises the whiskey and salmon, he has had difficulties in getting both, but will do it. Write soon and say you are sure to go with San Miguel and

Yours ever

JOSEPH.

* His niece, daughter of Harriet Scott.

† Sarah Maude, daughter of Jacob Maude of Sunnyside, and first cousin to Joseph Lamb.

‡ William Scott, son of Robert and Harriet Scott, and nephew to Joseph Lamb.

§ Warren Maude Lamb, Joseph's brother.

CHAPTER X

Joseph Lamb the Younger :

Married Life (1824-54)

ON May 4th, 1824, Joseph Lamb married Amelia Michael at Stamford. She was the eldest daughter and second child of Dr. Joseph Michael of Stamford, and was born there on March 15th, 1803, and baptized a week later at Kingscliffe. Her father, Joseph Westbrook, assumed the surname of Michael in accordance with the will of Henry Michael, by Royal Licence, on July 5th, 1793. Her mother, Amelia Wilson, was also of Stamford. Amelia Michael seems to have been a very beautiful woman, as her mother had been before her; and one at least of her younger sisters, Monica, who afterwards married John Phillips, a brewer of Royston, was also a beauty. As regards her character, her future husband says of her the year before her marriage that her mind was "playful and innocent, her disposition sweet," and that she was "angelic, her mind full of Heaven and divine matter." She always retained her charm, but in later life, though very kindly, dignified and charitable, she became somewhat imperious, and the affection of her family and friends seems to have been tempered with a good deal of awe.

We do not know if Joseph's plan of a honeymoon in Scotland was carried out, but his projected journey abroad was delayed by his wife's indisposition, as can be seen from the following letter to Wright:—

Stamford.

My dear Le Droit,

Nov. 1. 1824.

Madam has been ill and languid, she now recovers again, to-morrow we move forward to London, and hopes if she keeps stout as I expect she will, that in 24 days or less we may be at Vevey, or if you are gone to any other town, at Geneva, or Chambery, as you may point out to us. We have still plenty of time to be at Rome before Christmas; like you we will not stay long



JOSEPH LAMB WITH TWO OF HIS CHILDREN

in the south of Italy, but must see Naples, Herculaneum, etc., before we come back. As Madam seems likely to produce *Bambino* next summer, we shall not delay long in the spring looking to the north, as the accouchement I should wish to take place nella casa sua Madre.

In the spring also I should like to be returning to the ships, colleries and commerce.

Mrs. Fitter,* I hear, kicks against the retrenchments, but she must consent to that or she will find soon that worse remains behind.

I brought up with me a capital dried salmon for the noble G. A. Browne, and I have before me a very handsome letter from him acknowledging its receipt, and saying how happy he would be to welcome Madame at Trinity and to give *Bettera* a fried slice. He wishes you to introduce me to his cousins at Rome and to Sir W. Gell. He adds further he would wish much to be with us, and I have pressed him to come.

Old Sotto Mayor is wonderfully well. I have often played backgammon with him since I came here. His son is at Selaby and mournful at late events.

Coals are high and the trade lively again as much as I ever recollect it. The great losses by sea, storms and contrary winds have raised the prices and made a scarcity. The Holyland keeps a very distinguished place, Percy is more brilliant than ever. Backworth has fallen into the wain from want of regulation. The Ormstons have had legacies to the amount of £5,000 from an aunt. The Waldies, from brilliant success in mining, are adding to their house at Hender-syde and shewing taste and splendour. I shall require you and Madame to keep off the *maladie du pais* from me, a complaint you know habitual, when far away, nella bella Italia. Jacob, your uncle, sold an estate lately for £8000 to Riddell of Cheeseburn, it once belonged Bob Lowes, as mortgagee in possession, and the ghost of Bob, in the shape of Newton, the heir at law has come forward to claim the estate and forbids the sale. Whether Jakoutsky will guarantee the title or not, I cannot tell. Joe† is off to Scotland and I hope it will be of service to him. He and Madame Fitter have quarrelled, from her reading a long letter to his father, improperly extracted from his secret drawer!!! Cette femme n'est pas grande chose.

I did not see Backbook for some days before I set out, I conclude he is preparing for the final settlement with Bowes. I suppose you will not hand him over your Russian stock, but leave him to batten on the freehold. Madame desires her kind remembrance,

credete mi sempre

Your own Cassimir.

* Mrs. Warren Maude Lamb, his sister-in-law, p. 61.

† Joseph Chatto Lamb, his nephew, p. 59.

I shall write you from Paris or sooner. Le Signor Bastolo sta bene. Madame Fitter has abused all the famille Lamb. Joe Chatto writes me and wishes me *dead* (Good Tirrell) and buried, my good Tirrell.

I fear you will have ennui dans la Suisse by waiting, this grieves and vexes me sadly.

Apparently Humble and his family did not wait for them, but moved on to Rome, but Wright waited for them in Switzerland and accompanied them, as will be seen by the following letter from Joseph to his mother:—

January 29. 1825.

Dear Mother,

After a long, but very pleasant journey with continued fine weather we arrived safe here two days before Christmas, and we have continued in good quarters since, surrounded by numbers of friends, Humble, Wright, the Egremonts, Minsters, John Maude, etc. We left Dover in a storm, and in two hours and a half were safely landed at Calais, we had our carriage with us and posted rapidly to Paris; we spent a week there, and went very quickly to Switzerland; winter there began to appear, the Alps were covered with snow, but some fine days shewed us the Lake of Geneva and the neighbouring mountains to perfection. Wright was waiting for us and we have travelled together, the weather was clear and the fine chain of Alps was distinctly perceptible and all the noble mountains as we traversed the noble road of the Simplon, made by Bonaparte. On the top for some miles we found snow 2 feet deep, and we slept at a village below the summit, where everything appeared in the very garb of winter, it was on the 1st of December. The next day brought us into the plains of Italy, and we entered again into summer, with green leaves on the beautiful vines and trees, and verdure round the Lakes of Maggiore and Como. We escaped all the supposed Banditti of this part, and came safely to Milan, the postboys winding their horns beautifully as is done in the Austrian States.

We saw all that was interesting at Milan, and then proceeded to Parma, where we saw Bonaparte's Empress, Maria Louisa, at the Theatre, and again at her private Chapel. A very fine collection of pictures delighted us here, and we could long have remained in the dominions of Maria Louisa.* We next proceeded to Modena and the delightful town of Bologna. Its churches are

* Marie Louise and her son were awarded the duchies of Parma, Piacenza and Guastalla by the Powers at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1814.

splendid, and being in the Roman States, you see the primitive religion here assuming a garb of great devotion and real splendour. The Appenines come in near this city and we passed them most agreeably and saw the little Volcano of the Pietro Mala to a very great advantage, burning most vividly as we drove past in the evening. The country assumed a fine, rich and cultivated appearance as we approached Florence, and we saw no place before it that we were ever so much struck with. The Olives and Myrtle Trees were now splendid, and the cypress threw its sombre branches in the air, so that I exclaimed with Lord Byron,

This is the land where the cypress and myrtle
Are emblems of deeds have been done in their time
Where the rage of the vulture, the loves of the turtle
Now soften to sadness, now madden to crime.

I brought Medwin's Conversations of Lord Byron with me, and have lent them to his great Italian Favourite and Mistress, the Countess Guiciolli, who will be charmed with the letters and the animated picture of herself.

We met the Ministers at Florence and were all at the Opera together. Amelia desires her particular love, she has borne the journey well, it was rough from Florence here. We arrived just in time for all the ceremonies, we were blessed by the Pope several times, and have seen him perform Mass, and been when he was present with his fine band of singers and all his cardinals. The ruins of Rome delight me very much, I have seen Pompey's statue, where mighty Cæsar fell, murdered by Brutus, Cassius, etc. The prison of St. Peter and St. Paul, all the reliques of the Real Cross, Cradle, etc. Having now nearly seen all, we intend either to make a short journey to Naples and then proceed home directly, or to set out from hence in a week. The weather is dry and serene, seldom a cloud, but occasional frosts. The sun's rays are powerful at all times and hot. The Egremonts* go at once to Florence and do not visit Naples. Mrs. E. looks beautiful and well. Wright thinks of going to Genoa, Humble to Germany, the Minsters and Mrs. Bewicke return next summer. We have had some pleasant visits with the English, and have visited the Duke Laval Montmorency, the French Ambassador, the other Ambassadors and the famous Banker, Torlonia, who is a Duke and gives weekly parties to some hundred strangers of distinction from all parts and noble Romans. This fine air makes one forget the winter, it is so short, and the sky so beautifully bright. We are now anxious to set out home, and I hope we will be near Newcastle in two months. Humble's family are all looking well. Sara is rather lame and little, but I hope may become stout at last. Eliza, is a very nice, smart and

* Sarah Maude, Joseph's cousin, married the Rev. Edward Egremont, B.A., in 1824.

pretty young lady. I shall try to find you a little present from this place if we can get it past the different custom houses. I hope Mrs. Scott* continues well and that you see her sometimes also William. I observe Sunderland is going to be much improved, we have the London papers regularly here. Amelia again desires her kindest love. Humble desires his love.

Yours constantly and truly

J. LAMB.

After this tour abroad, which probably ended in March, Joseph Lamb and his young wife seem to have settled down in England for a few years, living at Lemington Hall for part of the year, and in Charlotte Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the rest. On May 12th, 1825, their eldest child, Joseph, was born. They had eight children in all. We know very little of the early years of their married life. In 1829 Joseph Lamb bought the West Denton Estate from the trustees of the marriage settlement of Henry Tower and Isabella Judith Baker (p. 48), the daughter of George Baker of Elemore, for £28,250, but as far as we know he never lived there. At some time between 1830 and 1842 the couple moved from Lemington Hall to Axwell Park, but we do not know in which year. They also moved from Charlotte Square to Forth House in Newcastle some time between 1828 and 1833. In 1836 John Bowes Wright died, and the cessation of the correspondence between him and Joseph Lamb deprives us of one of our chief sources of information, but fortunately there is only the lapse of a few years before Joseph's children began to go to school or college, and some of the letters to and from their parents are preserved. Wright's letters often contained references to public events, or made allusions to novelities, which are of interest to us now. In a letter of June 9th, 1828, he writes from Paris of "a new kind of coach called an *Omnibus* (Enterprise Generale des Omnibus) which plies in two stations the whole length of the Boulevard carrying 18 at 5 Sous each per station." The omnibus therefore started its career in 1828 in Paris. On June 7th, 1830, he writes again from Paris: "Great improvements have been made

* Harriet Scott, Joseph's sister.



AMELIA, WIFE OF JOSEPH LAMB
WITH THREE OF THEIR CHILDREN

since I was last here. . . . Trottoirs have been placed in the Boulevards and in many of the streets, which are a great security at some of the dangerous turns against the cabriolets and other carriages."

In 1842 Joseph and Amelia Lamb had their first great loss in the death of their eldest son, Joseph, at the early age of seventeen. He died of tuberculosis at Buxton on July 21st, 1842. We know nothing of his life and character, but it is said that he had an accident when young, from which he never completely recovered. From his mother's diary in 1842 we gather that he had been in delicate health for some years. Speaking of the sea, she says:

To-day it has produced feelings of a painful nature for it recalled powerfully to my mind my dear angelic boy, my first-born, with whom, and for whom I had for several years lived the greater part of each summer at least by its shores. . . . A few short months back we thought of undertaking this journey* for our beloved child, but, Oh, how impracticable and impossible it would have been, and yet how I cherished the idea and hoped that a change of climate would restore him. I would have made any sacrifice to have prolonged the life of my sweet and sainted boy, still I feel it would be selfish and wrong to wish for him back, for surely if any spirit left this world in a state of purity his did, he was a model of perfect obedience, submission and resignation, and is now, I feel, and hope not presumptively, I have an angel in Heaven supplicating for his poor afflicted parent, for how tenderly he loved her and all who belonged to him here below, and as much beloved by all who knew him.

Shortly after his death the family went abroad for the winter, leaving Axwell Park on October 19th. Their journey to Italy is described in great detail by Mrs. Lamb in her diary, and a letter from Joseph Lamb to his wife's uncle, Ralph Wilson, also gives an account of their journey in brief.

Rome.

Dec. 26. 1842.

My dear Sir,

I wrote to you from Paris, and am happy to inform you we arrived here all well, on the 24th, and have seen all the imposing ceremonies of Christmas, Mass at St. Peter's performed by the Pope with his attendant Cardinals, life guards, singers, etc., etc., in the most grand and devout stile.

* To Italy.

We had fine weather from Lyons, descended the Rhone in a steamer to Avignon, and visited Marseilles, Toulon, Cannes and Nice, where we remained a fortnight. We had a most delightful drive from thence to Genoa. We there embarked in a splendid steamer to Leghorn and had a fine passage. After remaining there a day, we again set out for Civita Vecchia, where we arrived after a night's sail. We drove next day here, and have very pleasant apartments. Mrs. Lamb rather complains of headache, and is languid, she will write to you in a short time. There is a letter directed to her, it appears at the Foreign Office in London, being a ship letter we suppose it from Clement,* and Mr. Maberley writes an official letter here, that it cannot be forwarded, until the postage 2/7 is paid. If you will be so kind as to send to the Inland Post Office, St. Martin's le Grand, any day between 10 and 4 and ask for the letter, No. 10405 upon which you wish to pay the 2/7 foreign postage, it will be immediately forthcoming and forwarded. The letter must be asked for by its number.

We have had summer weather for a month, green peas, lamb, ripe oranges, etc. We will soon begin to explore the curiosities here, after we find a good house for two months. We may then go on to Naples. The Pope is a fine old man and much beloved. The English papers come in eleven days. Trade seems gradually reviving, but it will require an increased foreign trade to keep all right. I have never heard whether the Income Tax is collected. Mrs. Lamb joins in kind regards to you and Mrs. Wilson.

Believe me, very truly yours,
JOSEPH LAMB.

The winter was passed in Rome, where the family spent their time in sight-seeing, attending classes, etc. They probably returned to England in the spring of 1843. Wentworth Lamb, the third son, went to school at Oscott in the autumn of that year, where he remained two years, going to Clewer in the autumn of 1845, and in 1847, or earlier, he went to a small school at Newark-on-Trent, kept by a priest, the Rev. Dr. Waterworth, who translated *The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*. John and Robert also studied under him for a time, after having been at school at Hinckley with the Dominican Friars. Richard, the second son, now the eldest of the family, was beginning about this time to help his father in family arrangements, as is seen by his father's letter (June 20th, 1844), written when the rest of the family seem to have been away and

* Clement Michael, Mrs. Lamb's brother, a barrister, who went to America.

Richard was at Axwell Park, attending apparently to things there and probably pursuing his own studies prior to going to Edinburgh University, where he and his young uncle, Isidore Michael, attended classes, living in rooms in Edinburgh. At some time prior to this Richard was at Ushaw College. He seems to have stayed about two years at Edinburgh, from the autumn of 1844 to April 1846. During this time we gather from his father's letters to him, and Wentworth's letters home, that the rest of the family were generally at Axwell, devoted to their old nurse, Sidi, and their animals*, and entertaining various relatives and friends, Agnes Michael, "cousin Harry"† from Oscott, Lady Strathmore, Major Paterson (who married Petronilla Michael and became Sir William Paterson), George Silvertop, etc. The girls were being educated chiefly at home, though Amelia and Josephine were both at the Sacred Heart Convent of Trinita di Monti in Rome for some months, probably in the winter 1842-43. One of their earliest governesses was Miss Forster. She was a great friend of the family, and lived at Warkworth with her brother, Colonel Forster, who was also a family friend. Miss Forster was a convert to the Catholic Church. Her brother had been a soldier in the East India Company's service, and was much interested in the Volunteer movement when it began. The Colonel was a fine character, and greatly respected in the county. The Duke of Northumberland often invited him to his castle near Alnwick. Joseph Lamb was also on very friendly terms with the Percy family, probably dating from the time when he held a commission in the Percy Tenantry at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Miss Forster probably left the family about April 1846, and preparations were being made that month to send Josephine to school with the Sacred Heart nuns, first at Acton and

* Joseph's two dogs, Caffie and Wattie, used to go every evening to meet him coming back from Newcastle: one walked down the drive from Axwell, and the other waited at the top.

† This "cousin Harry" was Harry Lamb, who was at Oscott for some years. He was a Catholic and claimed relationship with the family, but it was not very clearly established. After leaving Oscott he used to travel with friends on the Continent, and went with Mrs. Lamb, Josephine and Blanche to Naples about 1854. On leaving them he went to Cardinal Wiseman.

then at Roehampton, when they moved to the latter place. For the next three years there is a blank in the family correspondence, and we only know that Mr. and Mrs. Lamb went abroad in 1846 and 1849, taking some of their children with them on each occasion.

On March 30th, 1849, Wentworth Lamb received his commission as cornet in the 7th Dragoon Guards; on May 21st, 1850, became a lieutenant, and in 1854 a captain. From the time that he entered the Army, he seems to have been a frequent source of expense and anxiety to his family. He was young and gay and handsome and very attractive, but he had extravagant tastes and very little scruple about gratifying them or living beyond his means. From 1852 to 1855 he was stationed in various parts of Ireland: at the end of 1855 or beginning of 1856 he was at Edinburgh, and in the summer of 1856 his regiment marched to Manchester for the opening of the Exhibition there. In the following year he was at St. Albans, and sailed for India in the autumn. He was very strong and active, and gives an account in his letters of several walking and running feats he performed for wagers. In 1852 he was fortunate enough to be chosen as the subaltern to represent his regiment at the Duke of Wellington's funeral, each regiment being represented by a field officer, captain and subaltern.

In the summer of 1853 the family were at Homburg, and as Mrs. Lamb was not in very good health it was decided she should winter in Italy, Richard accompanying her so as to set his father free to return to business. There was apparently some gossip as early as June 1854 about the friendship between Richard Lamb and Georgiana Eaton, but as yet there was no engagement between them. She was the daughter of Charlotte Ann Waldie, a very old family friend of the Lambs, who had married Stephen Eaton, and they had probably known each other from childhood. At this time she was contemplating joining the Catholic Church, a step to which her mother was very much opposed. She was travelling abroad with some friends, and sometimes went to visit Mrs. Lamb and get her counsel and sympathy.

Mrs. Lamb was still in indifferent health in 1854, and the family

plans seem to have been that Mr. Lamb should go abroad in August for a short time, taking his two younger sons, John and Robert, with him, and that his wife should meet him at either Como or Homburg and spend some weeks with him, afterwards remaining in Italy for a second winter accompanied by John. Early in August, however, before they left England, a terrible tragedy occurred. In blowing up a wasp's nest, John blew off part of his thumb, tetanus set in, and he died in a few days, on August 12th, 1854, aged twenty years. This loss of a second son just as he was reaching manhood must have been a great grief and shock to Joseph and his wife. He joined her later, in August, with Robert, and apparently Amelia went with them, from the following letter of Jane Steavenson* to her cousin, Richard.

Edgerston.

Jedburgh.

Sept. 4th.

My dear Richard,

It appears to me very long since I heard of any of your party abroad, that I feel quite anxious to have a line from you to tell me of them, to hear how your dear Mother has borne her heavy grief and the shock altogether, and dear Uncle too, how he has stood the journey, and then I want to hear of that sweet gentle little creature, Amelia, how she has borne up under all her many anxieties. I feel very eager to hear of them all and shall be very grateful, dear Richard, if you will be at the trouble to write me a few lines. I did hear from Mrs. Leadbitter before I came away of Mr. Rodger's having communicated the first intelligence to your mother but at that time I think they could hardly judge how she was. But I do trust she has had strength given her from above to enable her to bear up better than we could almost hope.

Wentworth will no doubt have left you now, and I wonder if you are still at Tynemouth. Robin† enjoys the shooting here very much and does pretty well. He and Elizabeth Maude, who are the only ones in the room, join me in kind regards and I am always, dear Richard,

Yr. sincere cousin

JANE STEAVENSON.

* Jane Lamb, Humble Lamb's daughter, who married John Steavenson about 1835, and, having remained a widow for nearly twenty years after his death in 1846, married secondly on January 6th, 1865, the Rev. Henry Bouchier Wrey, M.A., J.P., Rector of Tavistock, Devon.

† Robert Steavenson, her son and only child.

CHAPTER XI

Joseph Lamb the Younger :

Later Life (1854-59)

THE family remained at the Casa Pasta on Lake Como until some time in the latter half of November, Bob and the girls taking lessons with tutors and visiting places of interest in North Italy, their parents paying and receiving visits. They spent a few days with their friend, Prince Belgiojoso, at his villa, Pliniana, on Lake Como. He was one of the famous Milanese family of Belgiojoso, the descendants of Aberico da Barbiano, a nobleman of Romagna, who during the fourteenth century formed the first exclusively Italian company of condottieri. His wife took a leading part in the Revolution of 1848 in Lombardy, but owing to the dissimilarity of their tastes they had long been separated, so that it is unlikely that Joseph Lamb and his family met her.

Early in October a definite engagement between Richard Lamb and Georgiana Eaton was announced by them to their respective families. The Lambs seem to have welcomed the news cordially, their only doubt concerning it being the delicacy of Georgiana's constitution; but Mrs. Eaton gave her consent very reluctantly at first, probably entirely on religious grounds, being a very staunch Protestant. The long-standing friendship which existed between her family and the Lambs, however, probably helped to heal the bitterness she felt at her daughter entering the Catholic Church and marrying a Catholic, and her old friend, Joseph Lamb, had great influence with her, so that she seems soon to have become reconciled.

The whole family were in Rome for Christmas, and remained there for Richard's wedding in February. Wentworth was with him for a time, but was called away shortly before the wedding, as his regiment was ordered out to the Crimea. On February 6th, 1855,

the marriage took place at St. Peter's, Rome. When the family correspondence commences again on May 12th, 1855, Joseph Lamb and his wife and daughters were at Florence, Richard and his wife in Paris, and Robert about to go to a tutor, Mr. Headlam, at Whorlton, between Darlington and Barnard Castle, with a view to going to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in the following autumn. This Mr. Headlam was the brother of Thomas Emerson Headlam, who for twenty-seven years was one of the Members of Parliament for Newcastle, and nephew of Dr. Thomas Emerson Headlam, who was a very prominent supporter of the Whig party in municipal affairs at Newcastle, and the chief supporter of Joseph Lamb at his Mayoral Election (p. 123). Robert Lamb went to Trinity Hall as intended, but was only there a comparatively short time, and then went into his father's office on the Quayside, Newcastle. This was probably due to the fact that Richard, after his marriage, lived very little in the north of England, and could no longer be of much assistance to his father.

The family had an adventurous journey home in the summer of 1855. They left Florence on May 14th with the intention of going by Genoa; but on arrival at Carrara found they could not cross the Magra, which was in flood, so they turned off at Sarzana and went by a cross-road to Piacenza and thence to Turin.* The following letter from Mrs. Lamb to her uncle, Ralph Wilson, gives some account of their journey:

Homburg.

June 17th, 1855.

Many thanks, my dear Uncle, for Clement's letter, he complains of not receiving any of my letters. Now I have always directed them as he desires, and I believe they have been always paid, but as yours always reach him, will you have the goodness to post the enclosed, and I will thank and repay you. We are, as you will see, thus far on our way home, and remain here for Mr. Lamb's benefit. The place is by no means full which is an advantage. We have Royalty, viz. the Queen of Wurtemberg and suite, few English, French, or Russians. We expect to reach England in July, we have had a week of excessive

* Letter from Amelia Lamb to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Richard Lamb, May 24th, 1855.

heat, which has been checked by a severe storm which has done great mischief in this part of Germany, destroying all the apples, tearing off the roofs of new buildings and injuring many persons at Wiesbaden, it was a perfect tornado. We have had a journey from Rome full of incident I assure and not of the most agreeable kind. Mountain torrents overflown, the carriages sticking fast, the occupant, Mr. Lamb only, who would remain in, extricated, and ten or twelve men holding the carriage to prevent its upsetting, all the rest being carried over, then on the Lake of Geneva in a storm, and were compelled to land at Lausanne from the steamer, in a boat with 60 or 70 people all huddled together, clinging to each other, one false step or fall of anyone must have upset us. It was a shameful affair, the edge of the boat even with the water, and waves rolling like a heavy sea, it was fearful, I assure you. Will you tell Mr. Scott I received his amusing and always intelligent letter, I shall send him a reply as soon as I can, but I am half dead with the travelling and wretched cooking of Germany and Italy. Mrs. Eaton and her daughter came to see us on their road to Munich, both very fat and well. I am glad to say all are well, I not very strong, but after some rest hope to be better. With all our kindest regards to Mrs. Wilson and yourself,

Believe me, very sincerely and affectately

A. M. LAMB.

At the beginning of November, 1855, Richard Lamb went to Paris with his wife for the winter, and from this time he seems only to have paid occasional visits to his home. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb and their daughters spent the winter at Axwell, Wentworth coming to them for his long leave, and Bob from Trinity Hall for his vacation. Wentworth's Colonel and some of his fellow officers came to stay, including Nugent Chichester, who in January became engaged to Wentworth's sister, Amelia. In March the family were much delighted at the birth of the first grandchild, Richard's daughter Marie. About a month later, on April 8th, Amelia's wedding took place. Richard came over from Paris for the event, and in his diary gave the following account of it:—

April 7th. Started by morning Express (from London) for Newcastle, arrived at 5 p.m., found Dog Cart ready, drove home, picking up Middleton* en route.

* Captain, afterwards Major, Middleton, a fellow officer of Wentworth Lamb and Nugent Chichester. He died in 1859 at Malta, on his way home from India.



RICHARD WESTBROOK LAMB, 1826-95

Large party assembled at Axwell, consisting of the intended Bridegroom (Nugent Chichester), his father Chichester Nagle, and two Daughters, Mrs. Egremont and her daughters Lilly and Pauline, Monsignore Charles Eyre, Rev^d John Singleton Rogerson, William Scott, Dudley Scott, Mrs. Petre, Lady Strathmore, Captain Middleton. Large dinner party, Jane Steavenson, and Ryton cousins, all merry, and happy, only drawback my Georgie not being present. Wentworth and Robert in great force.

8th. Up early, served Monsignore Eyre's Mass, Bridegroom communicated, the Bride and Family having conformed to the same holy practice the previous morning.

Like every other wedding morning, little said, not a little confusion, and running about. I had the marshalling of the Carriages confided to me, about 11, managed to get all off or rather into the Church (Stella) by that time, found the little Church crammed, especially by the women of the congregation, and neighbourhood, anxious to see the Bride, and Bridesmaids, all looking as Bridesmaids and Bride invariably do (very charming), all in white, four with Pink ribbons, and four with Blue. Miss Nagle and her younger sister, Miss Lillie and Pauline Egremont, Josephine and Blanche, and Agnes Lamb, the latter Joe Chatto's eldest daughter, and Monica Phillips. The ceremony commenced by the religious marriage, Rogerson officiating, after which the civil act was performed, the Registry duly signed, and then Holy Mass celebrated by Rogerson, the nuptial benediction, and all the rights of Mother Church, being duly observed. We were all astonished at the coolness of little Missie, the last person in the world to whom anyone would have attributed nerve. She, however, and the Bridegroom pulled thro' admirably, no hesitation, or nervousness, the responses quite audible. The Stella Choir were nervous, and sang badly. John Singleton Rogerson the only man or woman who shook.

Got all again packed, sent home, flags flying, and cannon roaring, the best battery by far being Ramsay's near our wood gate, John Ramsay superintending. Lemington and Bell's Close both contributed their quota of Cannon. The day was rather cold, with an occasional light, very light, shower (early in the morning). Fortunately tho' still cloudy the day after 10 o'clock kept dry, with now and then a gleam of sunshine, tho' the wind was cold.

The Breakfast had been fixed for two, far too late, as the Pair were to start by the five, or four I cannot remember which, Train: it was fully half past two before we sat down.

Breakfast splendid, nothing spared, all appeared in good appetite, not excepting the Bride and Bridegroom. I had the privilege of sitting next the Bride, who appeared very well and happy, My Mother was on the left with the

Bridegroom, my Father and Lady Strathmore opposite. The usual healths were drank, then too soon, time not admitting of delay, the Pair were sent off on their journey to Newcastle and thro' life. Long may they live happily together. No one I am sure who knew Missie can doubt, she will make Nugent Chichester a devoted wife, and from all I have ever heard of her husband, we have every reason to believe he will prove as good a husband.

I was glad the certain outburst at parting was soon smothered, and all returned to the Dining room, where in social and gay chit chat they soon dried up their tears, and appeared merry as the morning's Marriage Bells.

In the evening a Ball wound up the day's jollification, about 80 of the neighbours joining the party already assembled. We kept up the fun till three in the morning, when not a little wearied and tired we sought our Beds.

The chief event in the family in 1857 was Wentworth's departure for India. He sailed from Gravesend on October 15th in the "Southampton," and for the next two years his letters to and from home give us most of our information about the doings of the family. His mother seems to have felt his departure very bitterly. The Mutiny was over before he arrived, but there was still great anxiety in England for the safety of all friends in India, and the fear of a further outbreak there. On the voyage out Wentworth wrote long letters home, giving an account of the voyage, and sometimes telling amusing stories, as of the enterprising drummer-boy who came on board as a stowaway :

A Sergeant of the 7th Fusiliers came on board to look for a drummer boy, who was supposed to be stowed away, this happened at Gravesend. All hands were ordered on deck, a search ensued which proved fruitless, however on entering the Bay of Biscay or thereabouts the youth turned up, he had been sewn up in a sea sack, and hung up and thus escaped notice. He is a fine boy, some two years since he walked from York to a distant station, some 200 miles, to enlist in the same regiment with his brother, and now that his brother was going out to India he wished to go, and not being allowed, got smuggled on board. He is some twelve years old. He says with broad Yorkshire to me "I want to see loife,"

or of how he discovered a fellow Northcountryman in the storekeeper :

The storekeeper, the other night, when I was larking on deck, called out. "You munna hurt him, he is a countryman of mine," Fergisson is his name, and his father kept the Toll bar at Winlayton Mill, he is a good man.

The following letter to Wentworth from Nugent Chichester gives various bits of family gossip.

Axwell.

Nov. 16th, 1857.

Dear old Dobbin,

We all, including Sidi,* read your letter yesterday, and were very glad to hear such good accounts. About the observations, both† Sidi and I had but general notions, and stood on more to the flying fish, and such like. I have written so much that I am rather dried up by the process. You mention nothing about my pay-list affairs, which I trust are going on properly! We go the day after to-morrow to the Portsmouths.‡ When we shall be able to leave England depends upon the Gazette's wording and upon what I hear of the Pay-list. Your Governor is wonderfully well and so are the rest, including that sickly child Blanche. Amelia Phillips§ is here still for some short time longer and now that I know her well I think her a wonderfully nice girl, one of the sweetest dispositions and least selfish that I have ever met with, an abundance of good sense, except (if my guesses are right) in her continued regards for a certain graceless friend of mine, who is not worthy of such honors. Honestly, I think you would have done much better in double harness, than soldiering on in a nasty hot country for no purpose. If you come back to England in any reasonable time, I should advise you to think of my words. Only in the meantime don't mention to anyone what I have said. The house has had a "benefit of Clergy" this morning, Messrs. Rogerson, Eyre and Watson. I hear that Mrs. Fredk.|| has just driven up in her coach and four, but I have not been down to see yet. There has been a terrible financial crisis throughout commercial England, especially Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, on account of their great American trade. Newcastle does not suffer, happily. My people were to start, from Florence, on the 14th for Rome, so they will be all ready for us. Caroline Cleveland,¶ the 2nd sister, has just married Mr. Beach, M.P. for Hampshire. £10,000 a year, real, and as she has a large fortune too, they will do very well, they are just now "on pass" to Naples, and Rome.

I picked out old Nick, the winner of the Cambridge and Cotswold, for the

* Mrs. Cox, their old nurse.

† In his letters home on the voyage Wentworth gave the latitude and longitude of the ship each day.

‡ Lord Portsmouth was Nugent Chichester's cousin.

§ Daughter of Monica Phillips (Michael) and niece of Mrs. Joseph Lamb.

|| Mrs. Frederick Lamb, wife of Warren Maude Lamb's son, Frederick (p. 63).

¶ Caroline Chichester Cleveland, daughter of Col. Augustus Saltren Cleveland of Tapeley Park and of Margaret Caroline Chichester, eldest daughter of John Palmer Chichester of Arlington Court, Devon.

Liverpool, but he was only second, but I did not back either. My favourite, "Master Bagot," the grey, is running pretty well this autumn. Hookey backed "Special License" the winner of the Liverpool American Handicap. I shall hear more about Derby horses next week, and will let you know about them, just now I have no news. Bob goes to Gosforth to-morrow to meet the "Morpeth." I was out last week with Bell at Stamfordham. I was out on Monday at Throckley Fell. I had a very smart 35 minutes and kill in the open. Mrs. Edmonson is here, the coachman's papers are in as well as Hugh's, no footman as yet, and only a lance-cook, still we get on and live merrily. Jossey is so mad about hunting that nothing short of Hookey would suit her. Jenny Deans and The Cure Filly go to Tixover to-morrow, to the great joy of Bob. The Richards are going to London presently.

Your black mare is looking very well, but Frekd. says her wind is thick. I should like her to go to Harkaway, if I had a voice in the matter, as he gets them big. Goodbye.

Believe me yours always
N. C.

Missey's best love and most prudent advice.

A fragment of a letter from Mrs. Lamb gives an account of a dance given in the servants' hall on New Year's Day:

Some of the young men were smartly got up, Leo Daglish, Norval's son, and our own servants, who all doffed their liveries of course, and my little German maid sported white shoes!! They danced, supped, sang and danced again. Robert joined for a short time and Cesare* made himself pleasant, and John Liddell said to Robert, "Ah you see Sir these foreigners have fine pleasant manners, they beat us!" Sidy danced away also and was the hostess on the event.

A letter of February 25th, 1858, to Wentworth, from his father, says:

Your mother will write next mail. She has made a wonderful screen covered with fine pictures of scenes in Europe. We had a long visit from Amelia Phillips, who we found was one of the most charming women we ever knew. We have had very grand Balls here and at Winyard.

Early in this year Robert was given a definite berth in his father's office, and Mrs. Lamb, writing to Wentworth on May 2nd, says:

We hear that where you are going the climate is not unlike our own, but you will give us full particulars in your own agreeable way. There is always

* Mr. Lamb's Italian valet.

a keen appetite displayed whenever a letter appears to get the first reading of it, and I have hard work to keep Bob in order! He will have told you of his promotion to Richardson's place in the office and "takes kindly to his work" as they say here, and will get his regular salary of £300 a year, a good berth for a youngster, tho' he will have to work for it. This is a comfort to his father who cannot be expected to continue so actively and regularly at work as formerly. He has been a little out of sorts for a short time, but Dr. H.* says it is the gout in the system, and takes another form now that it does not come out as it did when he was younger, but he is better to-day and sang a snatch of an old song at breakfast as of old, when getting better, of "returning health shews worlds of bliss in store," etc., but alas! at 77 we must not hope too securely, tho' God grant he may be spared for some years to us. . . . I do not intend visiting the South unless Papa will move, as he requires all the care I can give him. Rogerson takes a farewell of us to-morrow. I cannot think he will remain in the Novitiate more than a few weeks as his love for change and news seems inherent. For Papa's sake I am sorry he goes as he was an amusement to him, for his own sake it would be well, as he never seemed a happy man! As Papa was rather dull about himself, we got Monica† to come down and she keeps us alive by her flow of spirits and music. She is looking much thinner and not so well, we think, but her voice is even better. We were all much pleased with the presents and the wine we have tasted, it is very fine. Cesare came with one of the tiny barrels in his arms, to day we shall drink to your health and prosperity. We all love your horses and they are great pets.

Wentworth's regiment meanwhile was being moved from place to place in India. They had landed at Karachi, and then moved to Hyderabad, thence to Sukkur, Mooltan, Meean Meer, and were finally stationed at Sealcote. Wentworth seems to have enjoyed the shooting, and as usual to have led an active life. He continually says in his letters that he never felt better in his life, and that the reason English people are not well in India is that they do not take enough exercise.

It was in July 1858 that Josephine had the accident which had such disastrous results on her whole life. On July 16th Richard notes in his diary: "Heard that Jossey had a bad fall from Donald, yesterday, severe cut on the temple." Apparently at first the extent of the shock this accident caused to her nervous system was not

* Dr. Headlam.

† Monica Phillips, Mrs. Lamb's niece.

realized, and she seems to have done things much as usual for a time. A little later in the autumn, however, it became evident that the shock had affected her seriously, and she was sent away to be under a doctor's care before the end of September. For some time there were hopes of her recovery, and there was an improvement in her condition from time to time. Various plans were tried: she lived in her doctor's family for a time, and in different homes, and sometimes the old nurse, Sidi, lived with her. She never recovered, and though she was only twenty-six at the time of her accident and lived to be seventy-four, she was never again able to live at home. Her music was always a solace to her, and she spent a great deal of time at her piano. She was ultimately placed in a convent at Burgess Hill, Sussex, where she died on October 27th, 1906.

During the winter of 1858 Joseph Lamb had several sharp attacks of gout, Bob worked hard at his office in Newcastle, Blanche had a new governess and became "very studious." The ups and downs of Josephine's illness caused the family much anxiety. Wentworth was very eager now to obtain his majority, and wrote home constantly on the subject, saying that if the money could not be found he would leave the Army, and suggesting that he would travel instead, as he did not care about any life in which there was not constant change and interest. His father wrote towards the end of the year to say that he thought he could see his way to find the money; but the matter seems to have fallen through, "owing," according to Wentworth, "to some mulling on the part of the Senior Captain." On February 6th, 1859, Joseph Lamb wrote to him:

A friend of mine in this town has invented a rifled cannon, which carries five miles, and it is likely to come into general use. His name is Armstrong,* it is supposed that some of his men have sold the invention to the French and Russians. Our people are casting cannon to his model.

* William George Armstrong, afterwards Lord Armstrong, of Cragston, Northumberland, C.B., F.R.S., Hon. LL.D.Camb., Hon. D.C.L.Oxford, the inventor of the Armstrong gun and founder of the Elswick Works, was the only son of William Armstrong, of Newcastle. He was born November 26th, 1810, raised to the peerage July 6th, 1887, married May 1st, 1835, Margaret, only daughter of William Ramshaw, of Bishop Auckland. She died September 2nd, 1893. He died *s.p.* December 27th, 1900, when his barony became extinct.

Mrs. Lamb added a postscript to this letter:

My dearest Wentworth, A word or two. I hope your father's letter may not be too late for this post, as usual he procrastinates, and as we advance in life our failings adhere even closer. Amidst all my troubles, it is a happiness to see him so well, and but for a little gout now and then, he is much as you left him. I am also well again, having had for some weeks past a very unpleasant attack of an aguish character, brought on by continual anxiety and grief, altho' they tell me I have much to be thankful for, as dear Josephine's health is greatly improved and her mind also, and time they say will in all probability restore her. God only knows what is best for us all, but I have no spirits for seeing or visiting anyone. My kind and oldest friend, Lord Exeter,* wrote to say he was bringing his youngest son to join the Rifles and if we were at Axwell would pay us a visit though Lord A. Russell, the Col., had remained at Barracks to receive them, and expected him to dine there. Altho' it caused a good deal of trouble, I think it did us all good, for to live so secluded is not good for Robert or Blanche, tho' they both prefer it. He and the F. Lambs are the only people we have had since your sister's sad affliction, but Dr. B. who attends her, said in his last letter should there be no relapse she might be pronounced almost well, and she drove to see the Queen go to open Parliament last Thursday. How often we wish to have you here again. When will it be? Should peace reign, it may not be very long. The people hereabouts have been gay, and the season being mild and open, we go out, Blanche and myself, on the ponies, and I work hard to keep myself from thinking. Take every care of yourself.

from

Your ever affect.

MOTHER.

Early in September Joseph and his wife and Blanche went to Scarboro' to stay for some weeks. They were expecting Richard, who had returned from abroad with his wife and family and was in rooms in London, to join them there during their stay. At the beginning of October Joseph Lamb suddenly became seriously unwell, and Richard left London by the night train on October 4th, reaching Scarboro' next morning. On that day they still hoped he

* Brownlow Cecil, 2nd Marquess of Exeter, born July 2nd, 1795: married May 12th, 1824, Isabella, daughter of William Stephen Poyntz, of Cowdray House, Sussex: Lord Steward of the Household, 1858-9: Lord Lieutenant of the Cos. of Northampton and Rutland: died January 16th, 1867. The family seat is at Burghley, near Stamford, Mrs. Lamb's old home.

would recover, and Dr. Headlam was anxious that he should be moved to Axwell as soon as possible, but later in the day it became evident that he could not be moved. Richard's diary of October 8th says :

My dear Father fell asleep last night at 7 or 8, and passed away this morn^g at one, dying without a struggle, of nothing but old age.

The following letters from Richard to his wife at this time are of interest.

Axwell Park.

Oct. 11. 1859.

My dearest Georgie,

Here I am, writing from my old home, which we reached safely, and all well. As my memory courses over the past a thousand kind acts of my dear Father are brought back by the scenes around, for 22 or 23 years his kind heart had always loved this place more than any other where he had resided. I cannot help feeling that you in your old home must have many of the same pictures in your own mind, consequently will sympathise all the more with me as I with you. Rogerson has not been well, he is now better, he is going to Paris, he thinks for the winter. Frederick,* who, as my Mother says, with great faults has a truly kind heart, and will take *more trouble than any one*, is most active in riding about making arrangements. There appears to have been but one feeling in the Town on receipt of my telegraph, the bells were immediately tolled and continued at times for three days, every one regretted they would never again see my dear Father with his benevolent smile and kind heart, he never thought ill of any one, and like your Mother no harsh judgment, or speaking ill of anyone was ever heard. Always cheerful, and ready to make the best of everyone and everything, he has passed away regretted by all, and I fear leaving no one at all equal to him to fill up the void. God's Will be done, and we must submit to His Omnipotence.

I received your short note, and trust you are all safe and well at Tixover.† Do be careful of yourself and the dear children. I think my darling May will like Tixover much better than London, I did not forget her shells. Give her many Baisers from me, also Tresor. Your Uncle‡ has gone to Pencraig, I believe he is in sincere grief, he wrote me a most kind note, he wishes to hear from you, and says none have written to acknowledge the catalogues. Poor

* Frederick Hunter Lamb, his cousin, p. 63.

† Tixover Hall in Rutlandshire, where the Eaton family lived for some time.

‡ John Waldie, who compiled a catalogue of the contents of Hendersyde Park, the home of the Waldies.



GEORGIANA ELIZABETH LAMB
WIFE OF RICHARD WESTBROOK LAMB

Bob is much pleased with the book, and delights in any family record. My Mother will be here to-night, I could not prevail upon her to stay longer at Scarboro'. I find burials inside Churches are now forbidden, unless a Secretary of State's permission is obtained, they throw difficulties in the way. Joe Chatto* writes he has no objection, but as the vault is small, and as he says "alas already contains many" among them his own wife, it would be very difficult and the time is short. Frederick has gone to Ryton to see about a new vault in the Church Yard, where I think he will rest. The funeral takes place on Friday. I hope Ibbet† is better, give my love to her and Charles,‡ thank him for his kind sympathy, I know he will do as he has *always done*, all in his power to make you happy and comfortable. We have fires in all the rooms which makes the house warm and more comfortable. God bless you, my dear, believe me always,

Your affect^{te} Husband.

RICHARD LAMB.

Axwell. Oct. 12. 1859.

My dearest Georgie,

I was so glad to find you were all safe at Tixover, it will be so much better for the children. I was sorry you had not been well, and you do not say you are any better; I fear you are making yourself unnecessarily nervous about me, I beg you will not. I am now much more tranquil, and have been able to sleep well for two nights, which is always refreshing. I do hope you will not think any more about me. My poor Mother arrived last night, I will not try to describe her state, she was so worn out she fell asleep, and is better this morning. I think God will give her strength to bear up better than we could expect, and she says she has seen how it must end for months, all appear to have known what must have been the result. I should be very miserable if you left the dear children, so I shall not mention your kind offer, it was very thoughtful of Charlotte to offer to come and take charge of the children. I was always sure Rogerson would not fail, he is a true friend.

I have ordered a new vault to be made in Ryton Church yard, Frederick and Joe Chatto have chosen the place on the spot where my Father and theirs used to play together, it is to be made for six, as Ryton Church Yard *was Catholic* and *consecrated* any of us could sleep there as well as at Stella, many Catholics are buried there. Frederick went off last night to Durham to see the Archdeacon Thorpe, on some matters requiring his consent.

* Joseph Chatto Lamb, his cousin (p. 59).

† Charles Eaton's wife.

‡ Charles Eaton, his brother-in-law.

I shall return to you as soon as I possibly can, were I to consult my own feelings it would be immediately after, but if ever a man ought to do his duty, and keep his own feelings in the background it is in a case of this sort. I hope I shall do what is right, I see no reason at present why I should be detained long.

Bob is now more reconciled, I do not think him at all more nervous than formerly, he has much more sense and sees things in their truer light. To day is much finer, I hope the children are enjoying the pleasant country air, which always suited them. Give them many Baisers, I hope Josey's ear is better.

I wrote to Nugent not to leave Amy, her distress on leaving her Father for the last time is described to me by Cesare as something terrible. She evidently never thought of seeing him again. I think you would do well to write to her under cover to Nugent, who could read it and give it when he thought fit.

Sidy is here, also Mrs. Edmondson.* I was looking at your picture this morning, I think the features have softened, tho' a hard likeness it is always agreeable to me to look at it when the original is absent. Give my love to Ibbet and Charles, not forgetting your dear self. Believe me dearest

Your affecte. husband

RICHARD LAMB.

Axwell.

Oct. 15. 1859.

My dearest Georgie,

All is now over, it was a beautiful day; about 30 relations and friends attended, of course a large number of tenants and workmen, etc., etc. were present. My dear Father's remains rest in one of the many beautiful Church Yards of England, said by some to be the most beautiful. He lies on a hill overlooking one of the many charming views of the higher portion of the river. Nothing could be more fitted for his last resting place. All was well managed. I think nothing was wanting to the sad ceremony, God grant he may now be at peace.

I told my dear Mother of your kind offer some days since, she was sure you wished to do everything. She saw the difficulty of leaving the children. She bore up better (yesterday) than we could have hoped. I have no time to write at length to day, as I must go to Newcastle. I will write you a long letter to morrow, and explain what my Mother proposes you and the children should do. You must see that my presence will be necessary for some time. I fully intend being with you the end of next week, this day week, possibly sooner.

* Their old housekeeper.



CHARLES ORMSTON EATON
BROTHER-IN-LAW OF RICHARD WESTBROOK LAMB

I must get either Mrs. Steavenson* or Miss Forster† to come and stay here when I leave, or as soon as one of them can come. Rogerson appears unsettled and leaves to-day, I regret this as he is at times cheerful and has been of great use, he intends passing a few days at Calverleigh on his way to Paris. I am sorry *your mare* has to run in harness, it will however be for a very short time, she was always a free goer, and will hurt herself in harness by it. If Ibbet and you drive a long distance in their carriage, I should think the quiet Chestnut might run with Isabella, especially if the large carriage is used. I mention this as I understood Charles he would not allow the pulling Chestnut to be used again. Do be careful how you drive. If there is a Break at Tixover from the Coachmaker's, it ought to be sent back. You will think it odd my writing so much about the horses at this time, but I am always so anxious when I think about you and your driving. Your groom will be active in jumping down if required. I think he may do for us *this winter*, he can break in my colt, if I get him some little help. We will consider these things when I come. I am very sorry Tresor's ear is not well, you must write to Dr. Brown if he does not recover soon, he should take his medicines and have the ear syringed regularly. Baisers to my darling May and the Tresor. Love to yourself, Ibbet and Charles. Always, dearest,

Your affect^e husband

RICHARD

The Newcastle Journal of October 15th, 1859, gives the following account of the funeral:—

The remains of the late Joseph Lamb, Esq., were yesterday conveyed to their final resting place at Ryton Church Yard, where a vault had been prepared for them. The funeral cortege moved from Axwell Park shortly after one o'clock, the hearse being drawn by four horses, followed by five mourning coaches, containing the relatives and friends of the deceased. There were also a number of carriages of the gentry of the neighbourhood in attendance. Between Blaydon and Stella the procession was joined by upwards of one hundred of the workmen from Walbottle Colliery, of which Mr. Lamb was the owner. The church was filled by an attentive congregation, and the beautiful service of the dead was read in an impressive manner by the curate of the parish. The entire arrangements of the funeral were conducted by Messrs. Ralph Wilson & Co., of this town.

* Jane Steavenson, his cousin (p. 85).

† Their old governess (p. 83).

and the following obituary notice:—

At Scarboro, on the 8th inst., in his 79th year, deeply lamented, Joseph Lamb, Esq., of Axwell Park, Durham, son of the late Joseph Lamb, Esq., of Ryton House, Durham. The deceased, who was highly respected by a numerous body of friends, was an Alderman and a Justice of the Peace for the borough of Newcastle, and soon after the passing of the Municipal Reform Bill filled the office of Mayor with becoming dignity and ability. Through life he had been extensively engaged in mercantile and mining pursuits, and his name was proverbially associated with all that is upright, honourable, and courteous, both in public and private life. He has left a widow and numerous family to lament the loss of a most kind and indulgent husband and father.

The qualities of frankness, courtesy and good humour, which so much endeared Joseph Lamb to his friends and colleagues in his public and business relationships, were also shown in his private life. His children were all devoted to him. His son Wentworth, who was in India at the time of his father's death, writes:

No man could have loved, honored and respected his father more than I did mine, I lose more than a Father, I lose a companion, a friend and an adviser, such as never will fall to my lot again. Heart-broken as I am, I pity my dearest Mother and grieve for her and all of you.

All the children seem to have been on the same terms of intimate companionship and affection with their father, who was full of jokes with them, and, as their mother declared, spoilt them dreadfully. There is a story that on one occasion when she came into the dining-room she found the small Bob (very small indeed probably, as he was still at the age to wear frocks) seated on the round of beef! In his letters home when he went abroad with his wife, and the younger children were left at Axwell under Richard's care, Joseph constantly speaks of his longing to be with them, especially his baby daughter, Blanche—"I wish I was with Blanche," he writes from Paris in 1846; and again from Wiesbaden in 1849, "Tell Blanche and the boys I wish I had them here, to see splendid fireworks that will be exhibited at 9 to-night," and "Tell Blanche I feel a great want of her society, but will soon come to be with her again." One delightful letter that he wrote to his little girl from Boulogne in 1846, when she was about two years old, may be given here.

We're arrived, dearest Blanche, and I write, only think,
A letter from France with French pens and French ink,
French paper also, and French postman to take it,
Who now blows his horn and no time leaves to make it,
But I'll tell you our voyage was boisterous and that
A hurricane wind to the sea swept my hat,
A new one complete that I had bought in London,
If my head had gone also, I would have been undone.
We are now in a nice Inn, taking dinner and grog,
As the place of all places is Boulogne for prog.
Next we'll drive to the old Café, Hardi, which yet
Beats the world for a *dejeuner à la fourchette*,
And then to Meurice's to cut up a haunch,
So adieu in the meantime, my dear little Blanche.

My dear little girl,

We are all well, in high spirits, with fine weather, and shall let you hear again in a few days. I begin to long to be back with you again. But I will soon come to play with you. Love to John and Robert.

Your affectionate Father,
J. LAMB.

This love of his home and children, and of his own country and his own particular part of that country, were very deeply ingrained in Joseph Lamb. In the letters there are frequent allusions to this feeling. "I hope Mother will find Brighton to suit her, and not again require a foreign country. Paris is very accessible, but for those that can stand it, old England is the country."* He spoke French almost as well as English, however, and sang French songs very well. His daughter Amelia once heard two Frenchmen at table *d'hôte* disputing as to whether he was English or French.

Although he never became a Catholic, he had a great leaning towards the Catholic Church, and was in entire sympathy with his wife in bringing up their children in that religion. In his letter to Bowes Wright before his marriage, he says (p. 72) that but for the *bruit* it would make he would return to the original Church. On one occasion when he was in Rome with his wife and was received in audience by the Pope (Gregory XVI), the latter asked him

* Undated letter to R. W. Lamb, probably written in 1855.

whether he was a Catholic, and if not, why not. His reply was, "No, your Holiness, I am not a Catholic, but I am climbing up to Heaven by the same ladder you are, only a little lower down." To his son Richard he used to say: "Stick to your religion, Dick—it's the religion of a gentleman. But I can never put on the harness."

His chief interest in life was his business, and he was also very fond of reading. When travelling abroad, he never cared for dinner on arrival at hotels, but wanted all the newspapers. He was a member of the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society and Society of Antiquaries. His wife apparently did not altogether share his love of books, for in the summer of 1859* she writes to Wentworth:

I am thinking of going with your Father to Harrogate for a fortnight. I think we both require change, but he, as usual, is wishful not to move, but reads, reads until I am tired of seeing the books, yet I believe his existence depends upon it, and this reconciles me, tho' one likes to hear the human voice at times.

There is a portrait of him in fancy dress in the possession of Mr. C. Moorsom Maude of Harewood, Leeds. In Ryton Church there is a tablet of white marble on black slab bearing the following inscription:—

In a vault near this church
are deposited the remains of
JOSEPH LAMB, youngest son
of Joseph and Sarah Lamb, of
Ryton House, County of Durham, Esq.,
born Dec^r. 11th, 1781, died Oct. 8th, 1859,
Upright, Affable, Benevolent,
esteemed alike in public and private life,
he died lamented by his family, and
regretted by all. His trust was in the mercy
of God, through the merits of his Redeemer,
that he might live for ever in the Kingdom
of Heaven.

This tablet was erected to his memory,
by his widow and family, to whom he
was greatly endeared.

* P.S. by Mrs. Lamb to Letter of Blanche Lamb to Wentworth Lamb, June 16th, 1859.

3. That it was not intended
and separate from any one
Partner or his Executor should
upon the principles and pr

John Graham Clarke
George Wale
Joseph Lamb
Robt Dringston
A. Mearns

SIGNATURES OF PARTNERS IN NORTHUMBERLAND
GLASS COMPANY

CHAPTER XII

Joseph Lamb the Younger :

Business Life

JOSEPH LAMB the Younger was only nineteen years of age at the death of his father, from whom he inherited all the latter's "Part Share and Interest of and in" the Northumberland Glass Company and the Willington Copperas Works. Of the Willington Copperas Works we hear nothing more, but in the *Newcastle Directory* of 1824 it is stated that Joseph Lamb had copperas works at Willington, so that he evidently retained his connection with them for at least twenty-four years.

1. *Glass-making.*

To the Northumberland Glass Company Joseph probably devoted most of his time and energy during the earlier years of his business career. In 1806 the Company seems to have been re-organized, as there is a Deed of Co-partnership stating that "the several parties hereinafter named, have agreed to carry on the Glass Business together from the thirty-first day of December, One thousand Eight hundred and Six in the following Shares, John Graham Clarke nineteen ninety-sixths, George Waldie nineteen ninety-sixths, Joseph Lamb nineteen ninety-sixths, Robert Ormston nineteen ninety-sixths, Walter Trevelyan sixteen ninety-sixths, and William Brown Jun^r four ninety-sixths."

John Graham Clarke was the son of John Graham of Sutton, Co. York, and assumed the additional surname of Clarke pursuant to the will of Thomas Mowld of Kingston-upon-Hull, June 27th, 1779: he married on June 18th, 1780, Arabella Altham, daughter and co-heiress of Roger Altham of Fenton, Co. Northumberland. His descendants are the Graham Clarkes of Frocester Manor, Co. Gloucester. George Waldie and Robert Ormston were old friends

of the Lamb family, and afterwards became connected with them by the marriage of Richard Westbrook Lamb and Georgiana Eaton. Walter Trevelyan was the second son of Sir George Trevelyan of Nettlecombe, and married on July 14th, 1772, Margaret Thornton, elder daughter and co-heir of James Thornton of Netherwitton, Co. Northumberland. The Thorntons were a family of distinction in Northumberland, founded by the celebrated Roger de Thornton (*d.* January 2nd, 1430), "the richest merchant that ever was dwelling in Newcastle."* There are frequent allusions to Walter Trevelyan in the correspondence between Joseph Lamb and John Bowes Wright, where he is generally referred to as "the brave Justice of Netherwitton," and sometimes simply as "Justice." Of William Brown, Junior, nothing is known, and possibly he never actually became a partner, as he signed neither the deed of co-partnership itself nor a codicil which was added on January 9th, 1810.

The English Glass Industry received a great impetus in the sixteenth century from the French glass-blowers who came over and settled in Sussex. When Queen Elizabeth forbade the using up of forests for fuel, the glass-workers were obliged to move to the neighbourhood of coal-fields, and thus the industry was started at Newcastle. The Northumberland Glass Works were at Lemington, and the following account of them was given in the *Newcastle Dispatch* (?) in 1896:—

Lemington was, in its time, one of the busiest centres of manufacture and coal shipment on the Tyne. As such it is remembered by Mr. Thomson Hutchinson, an old gentleman 76 years of age, who lives with his equally venerable and intelligent wife in one of the cottages known as the "Duke's" at the west side of Lemington Hall. Mr. Hutchinson's interesting recollections go back at least seventy years—for he has lived all his life in that district, and they carry him to a time when the glass works were in full swing. Nothing but crown glass was made at them then—some of it still forms the panes of Mr. Hutchinson's cottage—and a heavy duty had to be paid for its manufacture. The revenue officers were frequent visitors to Lemington in its palmy days, the duty had to be paid every six weeks, and it is represented as having

* Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1914.

amounted to a large sum of money. The late Mr. Joseph Lamb, father of Mr. R. O. Lamb, was at one time one of the proprietors of the works, and he is remembered still with gratitude by old people as a generous employer. "Mr. Lamb, when his old people got too old for hard work," said Mr. Hutchinson, "always found something for them to do, and invariably provided them with a free house, firing and garden." And on the Monday mornings, Mrs. Hutchinson remarked, by way of supplement to this eulogy—"Mr. Lamb supplied coals to anybody, whether they were his work people or not, and allowed them the free use of the country ovens that stood in the village." Capital and labour, in short, appeared to have agreed amicably together at Lemington, and the owner of the glass-works, who lived then in "the Hall," and his work-people and neighbours seem to have lived under the most agreeable conditions. The wages of the glassmen, sixty or seventy years ago, were about 25s. a week, labourers received only 12s. a week, but in each case they were provided with free house and a garden, and what coal they cared to use. The last of the glass-makers that Mr. Hutchinson remembered working for Mr. Lamb and his partners, when he was a boy, was buried only four or five weeks ago. The Tyne Iron Works were going about seventy years ago. They were in operation, indeed, up to some twenty-five years ago, but they prospered most when the glass-works were at their best, and the two industries employed a considerable number of men.

The glass-works at Lemington absorbed a great deal of Joseph Lamb's attention, and though he appears to have contemplated retiring from this business as early as the year 1818*, it was not till 1852 that he finally severed his connection with it. In December 1815 the Archdukes John and Louis of Austria visited Newcastle for a week-end:—

On Monday they proceeded, attended by T. H. Bigge and Joseph Lamb esq., to Lemington, to see the iron and glass works established there. Their attention was forcibly arrested by the locomotive engine at work upon Wylam waggon-way. After partaking refreshment at Mr. Lamb's they returned.†

On August 9th, 1821, "about one o'clock in the morning, a destructive fire broke out in that part of the premises occupied by the Northumberland Glass Company, which fronted the Close, Newcastle; and such was the violence of the flames, and the rapidity with which they spread that by two o'clock the greater part of the premises was in a complete blaze, and, in defiance of all

* Letter from John Bowes Wright, March 7th, 1818: "Have you yet resigned the command of the Glasshouse, or are you yet the slave of the lamp?"

† *Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. III, p. 159.

efforts, that very extensive establishment, with warehouses, and the greater part of the superb stock, fell a prey to the flames. The only part left standing was the cone, containing the furnace, adjoining the river Tyne. Some adjoining dwelling-houses, inhabited by labouring people, were involved in the calamity, several families having nearly lost their all. Great fears were entertained for the safety of the soap manufactory (which at one time was on fire) belonging to Messrs. Doubleday & Co., adjoining to the Glasshouse on the west side, but a strong west wind carried the flames in an opposite direction. The Mansion-house and Messrs. Doubleday & Co.'s counting house being on the east side, and nearly adjoining the Glass-house, were in imminent danger from the flames and heavy showers of sparks which were carried to them by the wind. And, to add to the danger, several hundreds of barrels of rosin were lying in an open yard close to the Mansion-house; on them the sparks fell thick and fast, but fortunately they did not take fire, though, to prevent such a catastrophe, men were placed on the watch with buckets of water, and many of the casks were removed into the street. By great exertions the fire was confined to the Glass-house premises, and about half-past five o'clock was got nearly under, though some of the ruins continued to burn during the day."*

In 1822 the Northumberland Glass Company seems to have been considering the question of confining its work to the more important branches of the trade and relinquishing others. John Bowes Wright, in a letter to Joseph Lamb (January 22nd, 1822), says:

With respect to one subject mentioned by you (viz.) that you think of abandoning the flint trade, it is the firm and matured opinion of both Humble and myself that you ought to do so without hesitation. The crown glass and your other numerous avocations will be ample employment for you, and you will seize an excellent opportunity to rid yourself of a constant and vexatious tie to a petty (concern?) no longer worthy of the powerful resources of the mighty Olomond.

In 1852 the business was sold. Joseph Lamb, in a letter of July 4th to his son Richard, says: "The Glasshouse sale produced £800, and some effects are left yet."

2. *The Coal Trade.*

The coal trade was Joseph Lamb's other great interest, which afterwards absorbed his whole time and energies. He probably had a considerable knowledge of this business from his youth up, as his

* *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 225.

father seems to have made a point of keeping his young sons informed on his business affairs and trying to awaken their interest. Joseph did not inherit any of his father's colliery shares, and his first direct connection with the coal trade was in 1801, when he is mentioned in the *Newcastle Directory* as fitter for Flatworth Colliery. As far as we know the first colliery in which he had a share was Cramlington, and this may account for the playful affection with which he often refers to this colliery as "the old horse"; but it is possible that Walbottle was his first venture, as this colliery was in existence at least two years before Cramlington, and the Lamb family certainly had a large interest in Walbottle at a later date. In 1844 it was worked by "Messrs. Lamb & Co."

The original partners in Cramlington Colliery, which was started in 1824, were Joseph Lamb, William Potter, John Straker, William Scott, and Thomas Barnes. William Scott was Joseph Lamb's nephew, but we know nothing certain of the other partners. Thomas Barnes may have been the son of Thomas Barnes, the principal viewer and agent at Walker Colliery, who was well known in the coal trade in his time and died in 1801. John Straker was probably one of the Strakers of Benwell Old House, Newcastle, and Stagshaw House, Northumberland, and William Potter probably one of the Potters of Walbottle House. The first office of Cramlington Colliery was at the foot of the Broad Chare. When the great explosion took place in Newcastle (October 6th, 1854), it is said that the only perfect pane of glass on the Quay was in the office of the Company. This had a special interest, as on it in 1807 a clerk had written a quotation from Shakespeare*. This, in an imperfect condition, is now in the Board Room of the Company at 65 Quayside. Cramlington Colliery was one of the most successful in the north of England, and includes seven pits—the Dudley, Shankhouse, Wrightson, Lamb, Betsy, Hartford, and Ann pits, which together yield about a million tons of coal annually. Joseph Lamb's descendants are still shareholders in the Company.

* This piece of information was kindly supplied by Charles Irwin, Esq., of Cramlington Coal Company, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

There are allusions in Joseph Lamb's correspondence to the "Holyland" Colliery, but we do not know whether he had any financial interest in it. He may also have been the "Lamb" of Messrs. Lamb & Co., who owned the Juliet Pit at Harraton Outside, near Chester-le-Street, in 1825. It is probable that this is the same firm as the Lamb & Co. mentioned in *Parson & White's Directory* for 1827-8 as of Wortley and Holywell Collieries, Nathaniel Hindhaugh being their agent, and their offices being at 24 Quayside. They were at the same address with the same agent in the *Newcastle Directory* of 1833-4. We have very few particulars of the Holywell Collieries.

In 1828 West Holywell Colliery was sunk to the High Main at a depth of 56 fathoms, a short distance to the north of the Earsdon shafts, the owners being Messrs. Taylor, Lamb, Plummer and Clark, who sank a second shaft to the same seam near Seghill in 1853. . . . The Low Main was also attacked at West Holywell in 1858, but the workings were closed and the Colliery abandoned in 1860 on account of its unprofitable nature.*

With regard to East Holywell, this colliery is still in existence, and the Lamb family still hold shares in it.

In 1839 the High Main which had previously been won from Backworth Colliery, was sunk to at a depth of forty-four fathoms and opened out at East Holywell by Messrs. Clark, Taylor and Lamb, the colliery being connected by a branch to the Backworth railway. . . . In 1860 the Low Main was reached at East Holywell, where, however, it remained untouched until the High Main and Yard seams had been extensively worked. Mr. Clark's interest in the colliery was purchased by Messrs. Taylor and Adamson during the same year. The Bates pit, to the north of Holywell village, and the D pit were afterwards sunk to the High Main and the Low Main, the latter in 1872.†

We know nothing of Joseph Lamb's partners in these collieries, but it is possible that they belonged to the families of Adamson of Linden Hall, Long Horsley, Clark of Belford Hall, and Taylor of Chipchase Castle. Of the Plummer partner we can guess nothing.

In 1838 another colliery, which is still working and still partly

* *History of Northumberland*, Vol. VIII, pp. 29 and 31.

† *History of Northumberland*, Vol. VIII, pp. 30 and 31.

belongs to the Lamb family, was started. The *Local Historian's Table Book** says, under May 10th, 1838:

A new winning was commenced upon the Seaton Delaval estate, by Joseph Lamb, Esq., and Company, which forms a new feature in the sinking of collieries. Ground was broken for six pits, exclusive of the engine-shafts, all within the compass of 600 yards.

A detailed account of this colliery is given in *The History of Northumberland*†, issued by the Northumberland County History Committee.

Besides the above collieries Joseph Lamb had some connection with, or interest in, others. In *White's Directory of the Northern Counties*, 1847, we find "Jos. Lamb & Co., Coal owners, 25 & 37 Quayside and Elswick Colliery," also "Joseph Lamb, coal owner, Sheriff Hill." The Ellison Main Colliery was on Sheriff Hill, Gateshead, and was often called Sheriff Hill Colliery: in 1844 this colliery was worked by Messrs. Lamb & Hutchinson under a lease from Cuthbert Ellison of Hebburn Hall. In a letter of September 18th, 1859, to his son Richard, speaking of pits, Joseph says: "We have nearly finished one at Ryhope 220 fathoms," and in his will (made on October 16th, 1857) he speaks of "all my shares and interest in Ryhope Colliery in the said County of Durham and in the property stock and effects thereof and of the co-partnership carrying on the same." He also mentions his "shares and interest in Haswell Colliery in the County of Durham"; but there is no other allusion to this colliery, and we know nothing about it.

In 1856, on June 18th, Joseph wrote from Newcastle to his son Richard:

There is a company commenced in Paris, called Société Parisienne, who have an immense French capital, and intend to have 20 screw steamers of 40 keels each to run from here direct to Paris. You will perhaps see the prospectus. Two ships are building at Cork. The Duke of Rochefaucault is President, moi Jos. Lamb am Vice President. I have no capital to advance. An English Committee of Carr, Wood, etc., are on the list with me.

* Vol. V, p. 18.

† *History of Northumberland*, Vol. VIII, pp. 30, 31, and 32: Vol. IX, p. 241.

On July 3rd he added a postscript to a letter: "The Times has had the particulars of the Société Parisienne advertised this week. See the papers of June 30th and July 1st."

In connection with the coal trade it is interesting to note that Robert Stephenson, who was Beadle at the Keelmen's Hospital at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1897, worked for Joseph Lamb during the whole of his keelman's career. Up to the middle of the nineteenth century—

keelmen played an important part in the coal trade of the river. In 1239 Henry III granted a charter at Newcastle to dig coals without the town walls in a place called the Castle Field and the Forth, and here it is supposed the first coals about Newcastle were wrought. In 1280 the coal trade had increased so much as to double the worth of the town. In 1539, the Society of Keelmen was instituted at Newcastle, and we find that they early manifested a strong capacity for looking after their own interests. . . . In 1700 the keelmen had petitioned the Common Council of Newcastle for a piece of ground on which to erect themselves a hospital, and the Hostmen's Society made an order that the lease of the ground should be taken in the name of the governor, wardens and fraternity of Hostmen for the use and benefit of the keelmen, and the cost of this hospital, which was finished in 1701, amounted to over £2,000, towards the defraying of which each keelman paid 4d. a tide. The keelmen had in 1556 been mentioned as an independent society, but later they appear to have become dependent on the Hostmen, whom they had previously asked to furnish them with a chapel and minister, and it was through the Hostmen that they obtained their Hospital, concerning which Dr. Moor, Bishop of Ely, is reported to have said that "he had heard of and seen many hospitals the works of rich men, but that was the first he ever saw or heard of which had been built by the poor."*

A keel was a low flat-bottomed vessel, used for carrying coals on the Tyne. A man was never called a keelman till he was "bound," for the keelmen had to be bound under a coal fitter. They—

used to wear a peculiar flannel suit with blue worsted stockings, and short flannel drawers coming down to just below the knee and buttoning at the side. They were very proud of their keels, which they used to match one against the other in going down the river, just as if they were boat-racing, to see who could get first to the ship waiting to be loaded in the harbour. The colliers

* *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, December 25th, 1897.

were provided with special coal port-holes, one forward, one aft, and one in the centre on each side, and the casters, when they had come down the river laden, moored their craft alongside, and shovelled or cast the coal through into the collier's hold. . . . The old Tyne keels were all of one size, and carried 8 chaldrons, or 21 tons 4 cwt. A keel's crew consisted of three men and a boy, called a "pee-dee." It was as a pee-dee that the present Beadle of the Keelmen's Hospital, Robert Stephenson, started his keelman's career. He is 73 years of age, and was born on the North Shore close to the Quayside. He was a keelman born and bred, as his father and grandfather were before him. His grandfather on his mother's side was also a keelman. . . . Stephenson became a pee-dee when about 9 years old, and when he grew to be a man became a full-blown keelman, entering the service of the late Mr. Joseph Lamb, who lived at Axwell Park (the father of Mr. R. O. Lamb). Stephenson's father had worked for 50 years as keelman for Mr. Joseph Lamb, and he himself worked for that employer during the whole of his keelman's career. Robert Stephenson was a keelman about 21 years, and relinquished his old occupation in 1852, since which time up to the present day he has been a ferryboatman.*

3. *Banking.*

Besides the Glass and Coal Trade, Joseph had a certain amount of experience in the Banking world. It is doubtful whether he was ever a banker himself, though he may have been. In *A History of Banks, Bankers, and Banking in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire*, by Maberly Phillips†, a bank-note is reproduced belonging to a firm, "Warwick, Lamb, Wright, J. Lamb & Co.," with the accompanying explanation:

The note here reproduced is copied from a "Sample Note" found in the collection of memoranda on banking matters disposed of at Miss Julia Boyd's sale. I have not been able to gather any information regarding this firm, and in the absence of it, I am inclined to think that the name formed an imaginary banking-house, combined by some engraver for the purpose of producing a sample note.

On the other hand, the Lamb and Wright families were friends and were jointly interested in some collieries, and the name Warwick

* *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, December 25th, 1897.

† Published by Effingham Wilson and Co., Royal Exchange, London, 1894, p. 404.

occurs in the family correspondence, so it is quite possible that there really was a firm of this name, but it may have been unsuccessful and have been given up shortly after it was started.

It is certain at any rate, that when the Tyne Bank declined business in 1816 (p. 52) Joseph Lamb was one of the four investigators appointed to inquire into and report upon the affairs of this Bank, of which his father had been one of the original partners. In 1822 he performed the same office for the Northumberland Bank (Sir Francis Blake, Bart., Reeds & Co.), which failed on November 30th, 1821. John Bowes Wright wrote to him (January 22nd, 1822):

Your letter to me was full of rich and most interesting detail, so much so indeed that nothing but the arrival of a second the other day to Humble could assuage his intense anxiety to know more of the late calamitous event. In the interim, we had seen your name with Loraine's in Galignani's paper as Commissioners appointed to examine the Bank accounts. Your letter to Humble gave a lucid account of the matter and laid open the whole machinery of the transaction, but he still wishes to be further informed upon it, and to learn what is to become of the Colonel, and what is to be their specific plan of winding up. He also wishes to know if you think of establishing yourself in Chipchase Castle. Indeed every part of your letter was read with a trembling anxiety, the spirits rising and falling with the various subjects of your letter, so that, as of Timotheus of old, it might be said, " You changed the string and checked his pride! "

The Colonel referred to was Colonel John Reed of Chipchase Castle. At the time of the failure of the Bank he parted with that property, and lived a quiet and retired life as distributor of stamps for the Newcastle District. Chipchase Castle then came into the possession of Ralph William Grey, sometime Member for Tynemouth, and subsequently (1861) passed into the hands of Hugh Taylor, who represented the same borough for several years. The Taylors afterwards became connected by marriage with the Lambs, and Chipchase Castle is still in their possession.

4. *Railways.*

The only other business in which we know Joseph Lamb was concerned was the making of the railroad from Newcastle to Car-

lisle. This project was first suggested in July 1824, when the Stockton and Darlington Railroad was approaching completion, and a public meeting was called for August 21st, when a great controversy arose as to whether canal or railroad would be the best means of communication. This controversy continued to rage for about seven months, when the supporters of the railway scheme finally triumphed. A company was at once constituted, and twelve directors were appointed by the shareholders on April 9th, 1825, to whom twelve other directors were added on May 21st, one of whom was Joseph Lamb. The first prospectus of the new line stated:

There will be no inclined planes or stationary engines; and the whole labour upon the line will be performed by horses, the directors having resolved to introduce a clause into the Bill to prohibit the use of locomotive engines, in consideration of the prejudice of landowners against these machines.*

The first application for an Act was unsuccessful, and another was forthwith made. "A Statement in support of the Bill" was printed for Parliament in the month of February, 1829. . . . The preamble of the Act sets forth that the railway "will be of great advantage to the agricultural and commercial interests of the district." . . . The Company contemplated no passenger traffic of their own, but they took powers to levy tolls on the conveyance of passengers in vehicles belonging to others. It was to be lawful for the Company "to ask, demand, take, recover, and receive, . . . to and for the use and benefit of the Company, for and in respect of coaches, chariots, chaises, cars, gigs, landaus, waggons, carts, or other carriages, which should be used upon the said railways or tramroads for the conveyance of passengers or cattle, the several tolls hereinafter mentioned." Passengers to pay sixpence for a distance not exceeding five miles; a shilling for five and not more than ten; and so on, with no distinction of first, second, or third class; for at this time passenger trains were nowhere known. Travellers were riding in old stage coaches on the Stockton and Darlington line, and the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was not open.

The construction of the line went simultaneously forward in a succession of sections; and on the 9th of March, 1835, as may be read in Latimer's "Local Records," came the first opening for traffic, extending over a distance of seventeen miles. Two trains, drawn by the *Rapid* and the *Comet*, started from Blaydon for Hexham, with banners and bands, triumphal arches, loud cheers

* *Newcastle Monthly Chronicle*, 1891, p. 349.

and louder cannon. Swiftly flew the iron horse; and spectators with good memories quoted the words of Erasmus Darwin:—

Soon shall thy arm, unconquered steam, afar
Drag the slow barge or drive the rapid car.

The rapid car brought back the passengers to Blaydon in an hour and a quarter—a feat into which the “slow barge” could hardly have been whipped even by “unconquered steam.” Everybody was duly delighted and surprised with the success of the day. Among the “Views” engraved from Carmichael’s drawings, and published in 1835, we get a glimpse of one of the trains, careering alongside “The River Wall at Wylam Scars,” with passengers inside and out; the roofs of two of the carriages being closely crowded, omnibus fashion.

Next day (March 10) regular traffic began. Passengers were conveyed from Newcastle to Blaydon by ’bus, and merchandise was forwarded by steamboat. Landaus and the like had neither part nor lot in the matter, and the landowners allowed the clause of 1829 as to locomotives to pass into practical repeal. How, indeed, was it possible that trains should be suffered to run without steam within sight of the cottage by the riverside in which George Stephenson was born? One dissentient, however, there was; and the traffic was brought to a stand, on the 28th of March, by an injunction from the Court of Chancery. Steam was stopped—the engine arrested. Great was the excitement. There was a public meeting in Newcastle on the 6th of April, at the instance of upwards of two thousand requisitionists; one of the speakers hazarding a prediction, which Time has more than fulfilled, that a passenger might, perchance, go up from the Tyne to the Thames on one day, and return the next. The resistance to the locomotive engine was withdrawn, and the running resumed. So triumphant was the experiment that the receipts of August were bountiful beyond expectation, the number of passengers during the month exceeding fourteen thousand, and the mileage mounting up to 150,000.*

* *Newcastle Monthly Chronicle*, 1891, pp. 349, 350.

CHAPTER XIII

Joseph Lamb the Younger :

Public Life

THE prominent position which Joseph Lamb's business capacity and reputation for just dealing secured for him among the merchants of Newcastle was not confined merely to business transactions. He took a leading part in politics in his native town, and held several public offices there.

In politics Joseph was a supporter of the advanced Liberal party, and at the General Election of 1826 he nominated Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, who stood for the County of Northumberland as an independent Radical. But he took a wide and moderate view of political questions, and was a great admirer of the Conservative statesman Peel, probably chiefly on account of the latter's support of Roman Catholic Emancipation and Free Trade and masterly handling of financial subjects—a point that would particularly appeal to Joseph Lamb. When Peel's Government fell in 1845, Joseph wrote to his son Richard: "I lament Peel, so able a man cannot be found."* It is probable also that, as he advanced in years, he tended, like many men, to become more Conservative in his views. In 1858 he wrote to his son Wentworth†: "There have been some curious speeches lately made by Bright, Roebuck and others, those of Bright very rash and revolutionary, but interesting in many points," and in 1859 he wrote:

Europe becomes tranquil, and both France and England are great countries. We have a delightful Queen, who progresses with the times, and the nation under her is prosperous and happy. A reform is coming, tho' not much wanted. Rome requires a great reform and will, I believe, obtain it. Rely upon it a Constitutional Government is best. You are too radical, I am very sorry to see.‡

* Letter of December 14th, 1845.

† Letter of November 3rd, 1858.

‡ Letter of August 23rd, 1859.

Two other men whom he greatly admired were "the gallant Palmerston"* and the Emperor of the French, to whom there are several allusions in his letters.

It is at the General Election of 1826 that we first find Joseph Lamb occupying a conspicuous position in the politics of his native town. He was one of the foremost supporters of Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, who had been one of the representatives of Northumberland in the House of Commons since 1818, when his father, Colonel Beaumont, having been elected at six successive elections, retired. Colonel Thomas Richard Beaumont was the eldest son of Thomas Beaumont of the Oaks, Darton, Yorkshire, and through his wife, Diana, who was the heiress of Sir Thomas Wentworth-Blackett, he acquired the Wentworth estate at Bretton near Wakefield, and the Blackett estates in the south-west corner of Northumberland, which included Hexham Abbey. Colonel Beaumont lived chiefly at Bretton, but kept up Hexham Abbey as well until it was destroyed by fire in 1818. He is said to have been a liberal and considerate landlord, much respected by his tenants and workmen. His son, Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, trained in the political principles of his father, first entered Parliament in 1818 as an adherent of the Tory party. In the House of Commons, however, he frequently found himself out of sympathy with his own party and voted with the Whigs. This gave great offence to his supporters in Northumberland, and although he was re-elected in 1820 it was probably only owing to the fact that one of the other candidates withdrew at the last moment. In 1826 he stood as an Independent. About this time apparently some incident had occurred, which caused him to be viewed with some disfavour. Whether it was political or personal there is nothing to show, but John Bowes Wright in a letter to Joseph Lamb says:

The funeral of General Foy† made a great sensation here.‡ The subscription for his family and monument will it is supposed eventually amount to a

* Letter of February 25th, 1858.

† Maximilien Sebastien Foy (1775-1825), French general and statesman.

‡ In Paris.

million of francs. Your member Beaumont gave 2000 frs. and it was thought a brilliant donation for an Anglais and very much talked of. But on other occasions he has shewn himself capable of doing a good or generous action; and notwithstanding the unpleasant affair in the North, I think Morrison was right to keep him in his place till time had dissipated the clouds which that event had gathered round his head, and till the publick should determine whether one dark and mysterious act (for I have never heard the matter clearly explained) should outweigh many good ones.*

It may have been this event which caused Mr. Beaumont to lose his seat, or it may have been his Radical opinions, or the fact that he attacked the leading Whigs in addition to having alienated his former Tory supporters. Wright wrote to Joseph from London on the eve of the election†:

I shall probably be back here on the 15th and it will be the 21st or 22nd before I can be in Northumberland. This alone would preclude all chance of my being present to second you, should you be called upon to propose Mr. B. Besides you will be able to find some one of more weight and more capable of performing that office with effect. B. is a brave and gallant character and I shall certainly give him a vote, but between ourselves I think he has been intemperate and rather injudicious in attacking all the leading Whigs in a body, not perhaps that they may not have merited in some degree his resentment *mais il aurait du les ménager*, he ought to have remembered the memorable rebuke of Pierre‡ to Jaffier§, when the latter in his anger had irritated old Renault|| “Thou shouldst have stroked and not have galled him!”¶

The election of 1826 is described as follows in *The Monthly Chronicle of North Country Lore and Legend***:

In this memorable contest each candidate fought for his own hand. Mr. Bell†† was a sincere Tory; Mr. Liddell‡‡ served under the same flag, but was willing, with Canning, to concede privileges to Catholics; Lord Howick (after-

* Letter of January 6th, 1826.

† Letter of June 8th, 1826.

‡ Jacques Pierre, a French corsair and adventurer, who took part in Bedmar's conspiracy at Venice in 1618: § Antoine Jaffier, another of the French conspirators against the Venetian Republic: || Regnault, a third conspirator: ¶ probably a quotation from the play *Venice Preserved* (1682) by Thomas Otway (1651-1685), which deals with this conspiracy.

** 1888, p. 195.

†† Mr. Matthew Bell of Woolsington.

‡‡ Hon. H. T. Liddell, afterwards first Earl of Ravensworth.

wards Earl Grey) came forward as a Whig; Mr. Beaumont throwing over both Whigs and Tories, stood as an Independent Reformer, or advanced Liberal. Not only was there no coalition of forces, no unity of action among them, but the candidates that were apparently nearest in aim and feeling were the most bitterly opposed to each other.

The real business of the election began on the 13th June. Mr. Beaumont was nominated by Mr. Joseph Lamb and Mr. T. R. Batson;* Mr. Bell by Sir Charles Loraine and Mr. Charles John Clavering; Lord Howick by Sir M. W. Ridley and Mr. Wm. Ord, M.P.; Mr. Liddell by Mr. Thos. Clennel and Mr. Wm. Clark. The show of hands was declared to be in favour of Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Liddell, and after a week spent in preparation the poll was opened. Thereafter, every morning from all the centres of population in the country separate conveyances set out for Alnwick to take voters to the poll; every afternoon at four o'clock, when the voting for the day ceased, each of the candidates addressed the electors from the hustings; every evening the vehicles went back to their places of departure, delivering news of the polling at all the villages and cross-roads leading to villages, which were passed on the journey. And this process went on for fifteen days, excluding Sundays. The mental strain, the bodily fatigue, and the monetary pressure were dreadful. Some of the electors died of sunstroke, for beer was plentiful while water was scarce. The parish clerk of Gosforth, forgetting his duties in overpowering sleep one sultry Sunday, startled the congregation by exclaiming "Bell for ever!" instead of making the appropriate response. Public houses were filled day and night by thirsty and noisy partisans; the markets were turned into hunting grounds for votes; work was generally neglected; nothing was talked about, nothing was cared for, but news of the wavering fortunes of the four candidates fighting their battle at Alnwick.

At the close of the tenth day's poll—Friday, June 30th,—an episode occurred which led to a duel between Mr. Beaumont and Mr. J. G. Lambton, afterwards first Earl of Durham, a warm supporter of Lord Howick. The hostile meeting took place near Bamborough, and ended harmlessly.

When the twelfth day's polling came to an end, Lord Howick retired. He had received 976, Mr. Beaumont 1241, Mr. Bell 1331, and Mr. Liddell 1485 votes. At length, on Thursday, July 6th, the last day allowed by law, Mr. Liddell was returned with 1562 votes, Mr. Bell with 1350 votes, and Mr. Beaumont was beaten by 45 votes.

* Thomas Richard Batson, a ship-owner, partner in the Northumberland Bank and managing director of the North of England Joint Stock Bank, a director of the New Gas Co., 1829, elected an Alderman of Newcastle, December 31st, 1835, at the first election after the passing of the Municipal Reform Act: killed on February 21st, 1845, in a carriage accident.

A few weeks after the election Mr. Beaumont wrote to Joseph Lamb:

Bretton Hall.

Aug 2nd, 1826.

My dear Lamb,

Having a frank for Armstrong, I enclose a note in it for you to enquire how you are and shall be obliged if you will tell Armstrong, to inform me in case you are yet unable to write. I have heard this morning from Somers that public opinion has been much more favourable to me in the last few days in consequence of the general detestation expressed at Ld. G's conduct. This will make it more necessary for us to be quiet, both in word and deed, and I shall neither write or say anything against his Lordship until something fresh appears to require answer or observation from me. Bird desires to be particularly remembered to you, and to express his regret that so warm and friendly a supporter of the cause should have suffered out of the engagement. Mrs. Beaumont also desires to make her enquiries after your health. I beg my compts. to Mrs. Lamb, and her pretty sister, and remain, my dear Lamb,

Most sincerely yours,

TH. BEAUMONT.

In 1829 Joseph Lamb, who had himself married a Catholic and was favourably inclined to that religion, moved a resolution at a public meeting in Newcastle, urging the adoption of a petition to Parliament on the subject of Roman Catholic Emancipation. The meeting was held on March 10th, 1829, and a long account of it is given in the *Local Historian's Table Book**, in which Joseph's name is not mentioned among the principal speakers; but there is a family tradition that he moved the resolution, and a draft of his speech, written on the back of a letter from Dr. Headlam, dated March 7th, 1829, is still preserved among the family papers:

The Mayor has already stated to you the purpose of this meeting, and the duty now devolves upon me of offering to your consideration the adoption of a petition to Parliament for the repeal of the civil restrictions which still affect his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects.

Gentlemen, I am not here to advocate the claims of any particular class of his Majesty's subjects, to the prejudice of the great body of the people, I ask you to give up nothing. I ask merely on behalf of our Roman Catholic fellow

* Vol. IV, pp. 15 and 16.

subjects the concession of equal rights and equal privileges, under the constitution of our common country. The Catholics have profusely bled in the service of the country, in the support of that constitution which as Englishmen it is our boast to enjoy, and shall we continue to separate them from us by degrading distinctions which the policy of a distracted period could only have dictated and imposed. My feeling and those of every one around me are evidence we ought not.

Gentlemen, I have all my life been the friend of civil and religious liberty, the enemy of tyranny and oppression, and with the feelings I have I rejoice most heartily a brighter day now dawns upon Ireland. His Majesty's gracious recommendation from the Throne has been followed by the introduction of a Bill into Parliament, which if passed into Law as I have no doubt it will be, cannot fail of giving peace and prosperity to Ireland and strength and confidence to the Empire at large.

I shall now read the petition.*

In the General Election of 1830 Joseph Lamb apparently again proposed Mr. Beaumont (who on his rejection in Northumberland in 1826 had been elected in January 1827 as one of the representatives of the borough of Stafford, for which place he continued to sit till the death of George IV produced the General Election of 1830), and this time with more success, as the latter was elected. The notes for Joseph's speech on this occasion are also among the family papers :

It is with a proud satisfaction that I have again the honor of proposing to you as one of the representatives of this County in Parliament my honorable friend, Thos. Wentworth Beaumont, pledged as he is to support economy and reform, pledged to the support of a liberal policy, and devoted to the furtherance of our local interests. To whom more properly than Mr. B. can we confide the important duty of representing us in Parliament? It is to the exertions of liberal, enlightened and independent Members of the house of commons that we are to look for the restoration of the Country to its former strength and prosperity.

If commerce and manufactures languish and decay, and if industry is checked and paralyzed, if the great mass of the people are impoverished and discontented, need I ask the reason? The widely disseminated evils of the country spring from one source, and that source is oppressive taxation; the first duty of a Member of Parliament is freely and resolutely to cut down taxa-

* The Catholic Relief Act was passed in 1829.

tion, and all who know Mr. Beaumont know that that is a duty he will boldly and unsparingly perform.

The great questions of religious liberty which at the last elections so much agitated the country and which were enough to shake this Isle from its propriety have happily been set at rest, and set at rest I should hope for ever, but can we forget the debt of gratitude we owe for the accomplishment of these objects, can we forget that Mr. Beaumont was the steady warm and thorough going supporter of the religious liberties of the people, and that on those grounds he is entitled to the support of every man of liberal just and enlightened sentiments. But for Catholic emancipation carried at the time it was carried, will any man say we should not have had at that time a rebellion in Ireland. Will any man now say he regrets Catholic emancipation, that he regrets the accomplishment of a measure which has served to unite in one indefeasible bond, the interests the feelings and affections of 20 millions of people!

Gentlemen, the applause with which these sentiments are received sufficiently assure me that Mr. B. is the man of your choice, I propose therefore Mr. B. as one of the representatives of this county under the most perfect conviction that he will discharge the duties of a liberal assiduous and enlightened Member of Parliament.

On the same sheet of paper there is written below a slightly condensed version of the last paragraph but one of this speech:

The great question of religious liberty which formerly agitated the country was set at rest when Catholic emancipation was granted, but can we forget the debt of gratitude we owe Mr. B. for his steady firm and warm support in the settlement of the question which prevented a rebellion in Ireland, now so ably justly and mildly governed by our noble Lord Lieutenant and which has united in one Bond the feelings the interests and affections of 20 millions of people.

The following undated note from Mr. Beaumont to Joseph Lamb was probably written at some date during these years of political co-operation:

Newcastle.

9 o'clock Friday.

My dear Lamb,

Culley and my brother Edward go with me to day to dine on salmon and claret at Bywell and return to morrow. As you are almost in the neighbourhood, and it would give us great pleasure, I wish you would contrive to meet

R

us at 6. I can give you a comfortable bed in an unfurnished room. Pray come if possible, we will have a merry evening and talk like Romans.

Ever yours

W. BEAUMONT.

My best regards to Mrs. Lamb.

A postscript is added to this letter in Mrs. Lamb's handwriting: "You cannot remain all night so I think it would be foolish to go." The Culley referred to in this letter is probably Matthew Culley of Coupland Castle.

For many years Joseph Lamb was one of the leading members of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce. We do not know in what year he first became a member of the Committee, but he was certainly a member in the year 1828, as on March 7th that year there is an entry in the minute book of the Chambers of Commerce stating that "Mr. Lamb read the Draft of a Memorial to the Directors of the Bank of England" protesting against "the proposed Institution of a Branch of the Bank of England in Newcastle," and at the General Meeting of the Chamber next day the memorial "was moved by Mr. J. Lamb, and unanimously carried," unavailingly, however, as a branch of the Bank of England was established in Newcastle in the following month. Again, on April 11th, at a Committee Meeting "Mr. Lamb read the draft of a Petition to Parliament against the Act which restrains the Issue of One Pound Notes by Country Bankers, after the month of April, 1829,"* which petition was adopted at a General Meeting five days later, but was as unsuccessful as the former one, the Act that compelled the withdrawal from circulation of all bank-notes under the value of £5 coming into operation on April 5th, 1829. In the years 1840 and 1841 Joseph Lamb was a Vice-President of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, and in 1841 he became President, remaining in office for two or three years.

Until 1835, when much-needed reforms in the local government of England were introduced, we do not find Joseph taking any part in the municipal life of Newcastle. Up to that date the corporations

* *A History of Banks*, etc., by Maberly Phillips, pp. 98, 99, and 100.

of the various towns in England were either self-elected, or elected by the freemen of the town, who were themselves elected by the Corporation. They were often exceedingly corrupt, and generally completely under the domination of one or other of the great political parties. Newcastle seems to have been no exception to the rule, and there the Tory interest predominated. All this was changed by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, by which the municipal franchise was vested in ratepayers who had paid poor-rates within the borough for three years. At the first election of Town Councillors at Newcastle on December 26th, 1835, Joseph Lamb was elected as one of the three councillors for the Westgate Ward. On January 1st, 1836, the first Whig Mayor of Newcastle, Charles John Bigge, was elected. In the following autumn Joseph Lamb was elected Mayor, his election being moved and carried by Dr. Headlam. The next day he made his first public appearance in that office:

The Lord Bishop of Durham visited Newcastle for the purpose of presiding at a meeting of the Natural History Society. On his arrival in the great room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, an address from the corporation was presented to his lordship by the mayor (J. Lamb, esq.), congratulating him on his elevation to the see of Durham. After receiving the address of the council, the bishop examined the museum, and afterwards proceeded to the lecture-room where the meeting of the Society was held.*

On the following day he and several members of the Corporation accompanied the Bishop to the Newcastle Cemetery at Jesmond, the western division of which the Bishop then consecrated.†

On January 16th, 1837, Joseph was unanimously elected an Alderman, which office he continued to hold till his death. His mayoralty was celebrated by an exceptionally fine regatta on the Tyne:

May 4.—Ascension Day, the regatta on the Tyne, in honour of Joseph Lamb, esq., chief magistrate of Newcastle, was more splendid than any ever before remembered by the oldest inhabitant. The aquatic procession was ranged in the order for starting at about half-past six o'clock; the mayor, accompanied by a considerable body of the borough magistrates and town councillors, with many gentlemen of high respectability, occupying his

* *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 322.

† *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 323.

splendid barge. Next in order was the barge of the Trinity House, containing several officers of that excellent and charitable corporation, with several members of the committee. Then was ranged the steam-vessel Ocean, tastefully decorated for the occasion, and in which were seated the stewards of the incorporated companies. In another steamer, most splendidly fitted up, were the officers of the 60th Rifles, who had resolved upon paying this mark of respect to the worthy mayor, accompanied by their fine band of music. There were also two or three other decorated steamers, occupied by respectable inhabitants (all of which in addition to those previously mentioned had bands of music on board); to say nothing of a number of small craft, containing gay pleasure parties, and numerous racing gigs, with their crews dressed in tasteful costume. All the ships in the Tyne had their colours flying, and many fired carronades from their decks. Cannons were also fired from several manufactories on the banks of the river, whilst above all, were heard the loud thunders of a salute from the guns of the ancient castle; the ear being, at intervals, relieved with the more musical sounds which proceeded from the bells of St. Nicholas, Gateshead, and other churches. The concourse of spectators was very great, and the unclouded sun smiled upon a happy and joyous scene. At a little after seven o'clock the processions started, amidst the playing of lively airs, to the Spar Hawk, the eastern boundary of the river; having made which, the party partook of refreshments at the Low Lights. About half-past one they returned to Newcastle, where the firing of the castle guns, the ringing of bells, &c., was repeated. A vast crowd had assembled on the bridge, and along the quay, to see the regatta, which was now swelled by many additional pleasure parties. . . . Soon after two o'clock the survey of the river westward of the bridge was commenced in the same order. On reaching Lemington the usual festive sports were indulged in, and unconstrained hilarity was the order of the day. On their return the party made the accustomed halts at the King's meadows, and a renewal of the rustic sports took place there; about half-past eight the survey was completed, and the party reached home amid similar demonstrations to those which marked their departure.*

It was a fortunate accident for Joseph Lamb that the period of his mayoralty happened to coincide with Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, as it greatly added to the interest of his year of office. On May 24th, 1837, the Princess Victoria attained her legal majority, which was celebrated with loyal demonstration throughout the country. In Newcastle "the right worshipful the mayor issued a notice, expressive of his desire that the shopkeepers should suspend

* *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, pp. 351-353.

the usual operations of business on the occasion, a desire which was acquiesced in most cheerfully,"* and the day was observed as a public holiday. On May 29th the King's birthday was the occasion of further demonstrations of loyalty, and "in the evening, the right worshipful the mayor, Joseph Lamb, esq., gave a grand dinner at the Assembly rooms, to the members of the corporation, the military officers of the district, the heads of his majesty's customs and excise, and several private friends."† Less than a month later, on June 21st, William IV died, and on the following day Queen Victoria was proclaimed in London. The Order in Council which Joseph Lamb received as Mayor of Newcastle, commanding him to proclaim the Queen's accession there, is still preserved in the family papers of his son, the late Robert Ormston Lamb. The proclamation was duly made on June 23rd, and on June 27th a special meeting of the town council "was held in the council chamber when an address of condolence to her majesty, on the death of the late king, and of congratulation on her accession to the throne was adopted, and it was resolved that the address should be presented to her majesty by the mayor, Joseph Lamb, esq., in person."‡ A letter from Joseph Lamb to his wife alluding to this visit to London is preserved among the family letters.

London Wednesday.

My dearest Page,§

5 O Clock.

The Levee is over, it was very grand, the Queen was quite divine, rather agitated with her brilliant Court. She held out her hand most condescendingly which rested upon the top of my right hand, and I then seal'd my test of loyalty with a kiss. Mr. Ord took me in his carriage & brought me back. The Duke saw me as I left the Queen and was very kind & gracious.

I determin'd not to be Knighted.

Last night when I was at the opera the Queen came, & I saw her very near, repeatedly. The scene was noble and animated. Grisi was very great. Schröder-Devrient is also fine, but in acting not equal to poor Malibran.

* *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 358.

† *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 359.

‡ *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 363.

§ "Page" was Joseph's nickname for his wife. This letter is postmarked "Ju. 19, 1837."

I now think I shall see the Drawing room party to-morrow, without going into the presence chamber, & get away at night, or on Friday morning, & be home by Sunday, when you can either send the Carriage, or I shall come out in a Hack. If you stay at Tynemouth until Monday I wd. come there, but that I do not expect. I hope you are quite well and strong again, that Joe is better & that you will have him & all the others to present to me in perfect health. I shall be most happy to get away & be with you all again.

London is full for to-morrow & then all be off nearly for the country. Capt. Blckett is ill & cannot be down at the Election. Mr. Ord will also be kept here by his son, the Duke comes down shortly. I shall not look further after a coach, get the children their little things Joe's clothes & my own, and then be away for Stamford & Newcastle. I wd. call at Royston if I could, I scarcely expect to do it.

Love to all the seven Enfants.

Yours ever affectionately

JOSEPH.

On the Sunday following the King's funeral "the mayor and corporation went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where the Vicar preached an appropriate sermon."*

Another interesting incident of Joseph Lamb's term of office was the public meeting held at the Guildhall on September 8th under his auspices for the purpose of sending an invitation to the British Association for the Advancement of Science to hold their next annual meeting at Newcastle.† This invitation was duly accepted, and the British Association held their meeting at Newcastle for the first time in 1838.

In 1841, when the Mayor of Newcastle gave a dinner in honour of the Queen's birthday at the Assembly Rooms, the Sheriff of Newcastle and Joseph Lamb acted as the two Vice-Presidents.‡

He also held the offices of Justice of the Peace for Newcastle, Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Durham, Chairman of the Northumberland County Council, and Chairman of the Northumberland Coal Owners' Association.

The following notices appeared at the time of his death:

* *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 367.

† *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. IV, p. 382.

‡ *The Local Historian's Table Book*, Vol. V, p. 266.

Another of the links which connect the Corporation of 1836 with the present day has been suddenly broken, Mr. Joseph Lamb, of Axwell Park, Alderman of this borough, and second* son of the late Mr. Lamb, of Ryton, having paid the debt of nature at the age of 78. The deceased visited Scarborough a short time ago, for the benefit of the health of Mrs. Lamb, and enjoyed his usual health till within two days of his decease. On Wednesday last, however, he was seized with a fatal illness, consequent on the infirmities of age and died on Friday evening.

Mr. Lamb was elected Mayor of Newcastle on 9th November, 1836, the second annual meeting of the Council after the passing of the Municipal Reform Bill; his appointment being moved by Dr. Headlam and seconded by Mr. Ald. Losh. In opposition to him, Mr. Ald. Potter was nominated by Mr. S. Doubleday, and seconded by Mr. (now Sir John) Fife; but Mr. Lamb's election was carried by a majority of thirty-three to sixteen votes. During his mayoralty the question of inaugurating the Northumberland Baths was raised, and at a meeting over which he presided, a provisional Committee was appointed to carry out the scheme.

In the same year, the discussion relative to the abolition of the Mansion House occurred, when Mr. Fife's motion was carried. On the 16th January, 1837, whilst Mayor, Mr. Lamb was elected an Alderman by the unanimous choice of the Council, an office which he continued to fill uninterruptedly up to his death and a vacancy will thereby be created in the Aldermanic bench.

In addition to holding these civic offices, Mr. Lamb was a deputy lieutenant of the County of Durham, Chairman of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, partner in the Cramlington Coal Co. and a large coal owner.

In politics he was always a steady Whig, and although not taking a very active part in municipal or national affairs, he gave his support to Catholic Emancipation, Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and other measures which were passed both before and after the Reform Bill of 1832.

His most distinguished characteristics were a frank demeanour and imperturbable good temper, which endeared him to his colleagues generally; and he passed away amid the regrets of all those gentlemen with whom he lately acted.†

Death has sundered another link between the past and present of our municipal history, and Mr. Ald. Joseph Lamb is no more. Second Mayor of Newcastle under the Municipal Reform Act, the venerable deceased lived to see the office shorn of all its pageantry and to behold the first Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne who officiated without a salary.†

* An error—he was the third son.

† *Newcastle Chronicle and Northern Counties Advertiser*, October 15th, 1859.

CHAPTER XIV

The Lambs of Axwell Park :

After 1859

AFTER the death of Joseph Lamb in October 1859, it was decided that things were to go on as usual as far as possible. A new governess was coming for Blanche: Robert lived at home, attending to business affairs in Newcastle. Richard returned to his wife and family, who were at Tixover Hall, and brought them back with him to Axwell Park to be with his mother, where they remained till the beginning of the following year.

For the next twelve years or so Mrs. Lamb continued to live quietly at Axwell Park, with Bob and Blanche, making occasional visits to London or the Continent. The family then moved from Axwell Park to Gibside Hall. This move probably took place in 1872, when Sir William Aloysius Clavering died, and was succeeded by his cousin, Sir Henry Augustus Clavering, who made Axwell his residence. Sir William had seldom visited the place, living chiefly in London or on the Continent, and his father, Sir Thomas Clavering, had lived chiefly at Greencroft. It thus happened that the Lamb family were the tenants of Axwell Park for thirty years or more.

This beautiful modern seat of the Claverings lies in Winlaton township, and north of the Derwent. It stands open, but not unsheltered, in the midst of a soft wooded park, which slopes gently to the Derwent, and is diversified by beautiful swells and undulations of ground. A number of deer add to the simple and rural beauties of the scene. The southern view overlooks the rich enclosures and hanging woods of Gibside. The east front commands a prospect of Derwent Bridge, and extends over part of the Vale of Tyne, the shipping at Newcastle quay, and the heights of Gateshead.

Axwell Hall was built by Sir Thomas Clavering, from the designs of Payne, and is considered by professional men to be one of that eminent architect's happiest efforts. Bishop Pococke, who visited Gibside in the year 1760, says: "We came about two miles to Whickham, and saw on the left Sir Thomas



AXWELL PARK

Clavering's fine large house, the shell of which is just finished in hewn free-stone." From what the Bishop says, we may conclude that the Claverings made Axwell Hall their residence about the year 1761. The Hall is roofed with slates. The handsome porch, which forms the principal entrance, was built about twenty years after the erection of the mansion. Previous to that time the principal entrance was on the east side. A flight of steps leads to the porch, and on each side there stands a small brass mounted cannon, placed there by the late Sir Henry A. Clavering. Above the porch, on the third storey, are the family arms—Quarterly: Or and gules, a bend Sable. On the south side, and at the termination of the carriage drive, the entrance is formed by a terrace, which runs along the south and east sides of the house, from which there is a commanding view of the wooded banks on the south of the Derwent. . . .

The park, which comprises 270 acres, is enclosed by a wall. The house is approached by two carriage drives—one at Shibdon, on the north side of the Park, the other at Derwent Bridge, on the east side. The drive from the direction of Swalwell (via Derwent Bridge) is especially worthy of notice. From the entrance gates to the house it winds under the branches of ancestral trees, through the vistas of which the deer may be seen bounding over velvety turf or bushes, or among the tall brackens, where they often seek refuge from the burning rays of the sun. After passing an ornamental bridge and turning a gentle curve, a splendid view of the house is obtained, which, from the gentle style of its architecture, has a very imposing effect.

On a hill, hidden by trees, about two hundred yards south-west of the hall, there are the remains of a building known as "The Temple," built by Lady Clavering during her husband's detention in France by Napoleon, at the beginning of the century. The structure is semi-circular in form, its height about 16 feet and diameter inside 20 feet. At the entrance stand three polished pillars. Whatever the building may have been intended for, it was never finished, and to-day lies in ruins. The park contains several very fine trees.*

Gibside Hall, to which Mrs. Lamb moved when she left Axwell Park, is thus described in the *Newcastle Monthly Chronicle of North Country Lore and Legend*†:—

Few gentlemen's seats in the immediate neighbourhood of Newcastle are more interesting than Gibside. Since the time when the grounds were laid out much as we find them now, by George Bowes, about the years 1740-1760, the name of Gibside has always been suggestive of pleasant walks and shady

* *History of the Parish of Ryton*, by William Bourn, 1896, pp. 171, 172, 173.

† Vol. III, 1889, pp. 390-392.

groves. Doubtless the place was one of some beauty before Mr. Bowes took it in hand. But it is to his taste that it owes much of the celebrity which it has possessed for a long time in the northern parts of the county of Durham. When Hutchinson wrote his *History of Durham*—shortly after the death of George Bowes—he declared that it was difficult to convey an idea of the beautiful and magnificent scenery of the place.

Amongst the earliest possessors of Gibside was a family of the name of Marley, who resided at Marley Hill about the year 1200. The estates were held by the Marleys until 1540, in which year there was a failure of male issue, the last owner leaving an only daughter, Elisabeth. This heiress married Roger Blakeston, of Coxhoe, thus carrying the estates to another family. About the year 1694, there was again an heiress to the estates. The lands passed in course of time to the family of Bowes, of Streatlam Castle. Not quite another century passed away before there was another failure of male issue, when by the marriage in 1767 of Mary Eleanor, only daughter of George Bowes, of Streatlam and Gibside, to the Earl of Strathmore, of Glamis Castle, Scotland, the lands were again transferred to another family.

Gibside has continued to the present day to be a favourite resort of pleasure parties who obtain the permission of the proprietor to visit it. Whether the eminent landscape gardener, Capability Brown, had any hand in planning the various avenues and plantations, I cannot say. At any rate, they bear traces of the new school of gardening which Brown did so much to promote at the seats of noblemen and gentlemen. There are several places in Gibside that seem to have been laid out with great taste and judgment. At a spot called the Top of the Hollow Walk, there were (and it may truly be said to a certain extent that there are yet) three fine vistas in three different directions.

The Banqueting Hall was erected by George Bowes, and the writer has been informed that he died before it was put to any issue. It is built in the Florid Gothic style, with ornamental crockets. A pointed spire rises above the front entrance. The doors and windows are glazed in geometrical patterns. The interior consists of a spacious dining and luncheon hall, with a handsomely ornamented ceiling. A staircase leads to the roof, from which there is a fine view. The floor is of pine, and is laid so that not a nail hole or mark is visible. At each end are mirrors in the walls, so that when a company would be seated there would be what appeared an almost endless length of table and guests. Altogether it was an elegant erection, and quite in keeping with the rest of the grounds and buildings.

The chapel, which stands at the west end of the terrace made by George Bowes, was commenced in the year 1760, but was not consecrated until 1812. It was intended to serve, and does serve, both as a place of worship and a



GIBSIDE HALL

family mausoleum. George Bowes, who commenced to build the chapel, was first interred at Whickham, but his remains were removed here on the consecration and completion of the edifice.

The Hall itself is a long and low building of only two storeys in height, except at the east end, where the ground shelves rapidly. The windows looking towards the park or the south . . . are divided by heavy stone mullions. Above the front door is a sun dial . . . bearing the motto "Uti hora, sic vita." The arms of Bowes and Blakiston are marked on the front with initials of the names of Blakeston, Bowes and Strathmore, and the dates of 1620, that of the first erection of the Hall, and of 1805, the time when the hall was put into its present form.* . . . Previous to 1805, when the hall was altered to its present shape, it was, as may be seen from an engraving in Hutchinson's *History of Durham*, three storeys high and covered with grey slates. The hall on the northern side stands on the top of a steep declivity, terminated at the bottom by a level haugh or plain, round which the Derwent flows.

Such was the home in which Mrs. Lamb passed the last few years of her life, and there she died on March 5th, 1876, aged 73, and was buried at Stella, Co. Durham. Her grandchildren remember her as a very handsome, tall and imposing lady with grey hair, who was wont to say to her granddaughter, Marie†, Richard's daughter, "Never let anyone write a letter on *your* back any more than they can on mine!" Richard's children stayed with her sometimes after their mother's death, when their father was abroad, and still recollect their terror of the ghost at the old Hall when going to bed at night, and how comforted they were when the old dog, Druid‡, sometimes accompanied them up the stairs and through the long oak corridor. They also recollect their grandmother driving out with her cream-coloured Norwegian ponies every day, and that she always had an outrider in attendance. She had a great sense of her own dignity and importance, and always preferred to travel in a coach and four when going to pay a visit. On one occasion, it is said, she arrived at her host's house in the evening, and fancied some slight had been put upon

* *Newcastle Monthly Chronicle of North-Country Lore and Legend*, Vol. III, 1889, p. 294.

† Marie, Lady De Freyne.

‡ One of the Pugin's breed of bloodhound and English mastiff crossed.

her, or that the room allotted to her was not good enough. Very early next morning she arose, had the horses put to, and drove away in her coach and four without waiting to finish her visit. She did not share her husband's love of books, but painted well, and was very fond of travelling. Two of her pictures, painted in 1853 at Homburg, are now in the possession of Major S. E. Lamb.

Wentworth Lamb came home on leave from India in March 1860, and never returned there. In April 1861 he sold out of the Army, and seems to have spent the rest of his life in travelling and sport. He suffered a good deal from rheumatism and gout in his later years, and died on November 26th, 1876, six months after his mother, at the comparatively early age of forty-six, and was buried at Stella.

Robert Ormston Lamb was the son who took his father's place, and carried on the family traditions most closely. He left Cambridge without taking his degree in order to help his father in his business, and he went on living with his mother first at Axwell, and then at Gibside, until her death. One of his nephews, recalling his impressions of those old days, says that the principal one left in his mind is of the extraordinary geniality and kindness of "Uncle Bob" to his young nephews. When as boys they used to stay at Axwell, and later at Gibside, they used to come down for dessert in the evening, and invariably after dinner he would sing for them, either airs out of the Italian operas, "*La donna e mobile*," etc., or old English songs such as "*Simon the Cellarer*." He had a naturally fine voice, but never had it properly trained.

After their mother's death Robert and Blanche continued to live together, at first at Gibside. Later on financial troubles and bad times in the coal trade compelled them to retrench, and they then lived at The Lawn, Ryton*, until 1882, when Robert married Helen Lamb, his first cousin once removed†, the daughter of Joseph Chatto Lamb of Ryton Hall. A few months after the marriage Blanche Lamb became a Sister of Charity. She had decided when

* The small house at Ryton belonging to the Steavensons, p. 85, and Pedigree.

† See Pedigree.



ROBERT ORMSTON LAMB, 1836-1912

she was about eighteen that she would like to become a nun, but at the time she was unable to carry out her intention, as she felt that her first duty was to her mother. In order, however, that she might be ready and fit to take up the life when she felt free to do so, she privately observed as far as possible in her daily life the rules and habits of the sisterhood she wished to join. Even after her mother's death she did not feel justified in carrying out her wish: her brother Robert was left quite alone, and she felt that her duty was to make a home for him. But when he was happily married, she was free to fulfil her heart's desire, and for over thirty years cared for the poor with the same unselfish and loving devotion that she had shown to her own family.

For the first nine years of their married life, Robert and Helen Lamb lived at The Lawn in a very unpretentious manner, as he had lost large sums of money, through the dishonesty of his viewer, in working Walbottle Colliery. For the next ten years (1891-1901) they lived at West Denton Hall, which had been left to Richard Lamb by his father. They then purchased Stone House in the parish of Hayton, at How Mill, Carlisle, afterwards known as Hayton House, where they lived from 1901 till his death in 1912. Robert was much pleased to go back into Cumberland, in which county he had inherited the old farm of Temon and other lands, which had belonged to his father, his grandfather, and great-uncle, and in the more prosperous years that ensued, after he had paid off all the debts incurred at Walbottle, he altered and enlarged Hayton House, and added considerably to the landed estate. He was much interested in the breeding of cattle and collected a fine herd of shorthorns.

Robert was as devoted a husband and father as he had been a son, and his grief at the death at the early age of seven of his elder boy, Claud, remained with him all his life. In public as in private life, he showed a most genial personality, and his manners were of the courtly old school. A few days before Christmas, 1912, he caught a chill out shooting, but insisted on going into Newcastle to his office as usual. On December 26th he succumbed to bronchitis at Hayton

House, and was buried on the 30th at the Roman Catholic Church at Warwick Bridge. The following obituary notices appeared in the north country papers:—

It is with very deep regret that we have this morning to record the death of Mr. R. O. Lamb, who was not only one of the best known men in the North of England, but quite the most conspicuous figure in the local coal trade. To write the business history of the Lamb family in detail would almost serve the purpose at the same time of telling the story of the Northumberland coal trade in modern times, for there has never been a period in the last hundred years or more when a Lamb, father or son, was not prominently identified with this business. Money has been made in the coal trade, and money has been lost in it, but through all these mutations the Lambs, father and son, remained in it with all the dignity of established tenure which we usually associate with the landed aristocracy. Mr. R. O. Lamb was a type of business man which it is to be hoped may long endure. In him we had a master who was beloved by his men, and a man who could take a keen interest in business and yet be a gentleman first, last, and always. In him we had embodied the best type of an English gentleman. There are those, and more particularly in other lands, who make haste to get rich, and get out of business as quickly as possible, paying only lip service to the true saying that work is honourable. Mr. Lamb believed that work is something more than a means to an end, and we must think the more highly of him because he remained in harness until the last days of a long and useful life and an honourable old age.*

Mr. Robert Ormston Lamb was one of the best known and most highly esteemed of country gentlemen in the North of England, and one of the most prominent of those associated with the export trade of the district, and particularly with the coal trade, the staple industry of Northumberland and Durham, in which his interest was very extensive. All his life he had been associated with the production and export of coal, and the bond between the miners and himself was close and, it is not too much to say, affectionate.

Robert Ormston Lamb was born in 1836, at Axwell Park, near Gateshead,† and was the son of Mr. Joseph Lamb, one of the promoters of the Cramlington Collieries, which are among the oldest and most prosperous mines in Northumberland. The group includes seven pits—the Dudley, Shankhouse, Wrightson, Lamb, Betsy, Hartford, and Ann Pits; and these together yield about a million tons of coal annually. Mr. Joseph Lamb died on October 8th, 1859, and in the same year Mr. R. O. Lamb was appointed to succeed his father, and he continued at the head of the company until his death.

* *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, December 27th, 1912.

† This is an error—he was born at Forth House, Newcastle.

Thus for more than half a century he was the chairman of a large and prosperous company. During this period, the whole of the pits were remodelled, and were brought up to date in every detail. Among recent introductions were the erection of a very large "washery". . . . In these, and in all other matters affecting the production of coal, Mr. Lamb took a close personal interest. He was Chairman also of the Seaton Delaval Coal Company, which also has an output of about a million tons in the twelve months; and a director of the East Holywell Coal Company.

For upwards of a quarter of a century Mr. Lamb had been chairman of the Northumberland Coalowners' Association, and presided at its meetings and gave direction to its deliberations. He was a warm supporter of conciliation in all matters affecting labour, and during the whole continuance of the last conciliation board he was chairman of the masters' side, and was rarely absent from its meetings. His influence was ever for kindness and agreement, although, of course, he was firm when he deemed firmness to be necessary. Mr. Lamb usually left, in the board, the arguments based upon figures to his colleagues; but he was always tactful and discreet in all that he said. There was not a man, on either side of the board, who had not a very sincere respect for Mr. Lamb—admiration for his good qualities and affection for his innate kindness.

Mr. Lamb loved the life of a country gentleman, and was never happier than when he was away from the activity and bustle of commerce, and amid the pleasures of rural existence. He lived at Hayton, How Mill, one of the pleasantest places between Newcastle and Carlisle, and was beloved by his neighbours, rich and lowly alike. He was married to a daughter of Mr. Joseph Chatto Lamb, his wife being his cousin. Their only son is Lieutenant Everard Joseph Lamb, of the 3rd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

Mr. Lamb was a prominent member of the Roman Catholic community, and a generous supporter of that church. He erected the fine monument to the memory of the soldiers who died in the South African War, which now adorns St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, and he also erected another beautiful war memorial in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh. Quite recently he gave £500 to the King Edward Memorial Fund for enlarging Carlisle Infirmary. In the early days of the volunteer movement, Mr. Lamb served as a citizen soldier, and when the races were held on Newcastle Town Moor he was one of the directors of the sport. Mr. Lamb was never a political partisan in the sense of being attached to one or other of the great parties. He was a strong individualist and an imperialist in the best sense of that hackneyed term. He was a warm supporter of the late Mr. Joseph Cowen, at whose public meetings he not infrequently presided.

In course of time, Mr. Lamb celebrated the jubilee of his association with the coal trade, and, in the second week of July, 1911, the directors and shareholders of the Cramlington Coal Company entertained him at luncheon, and presented him with his portrait in oils painted by Professor Sir Hubert Von Herkomer. Sir Thomas Wrightson made the presentation, on behalf of the subscribers, and said that Mr. Lamb had the goodwill and the admiration not only of those connected with collieries, but also of many outside. Nothing could illustrate that more than the fact that 25 years ago Mr. Lamb had been elected chairman of the United Coal Trade Association. That position was one which was full of difficulties, because Mr. Lamb had to do not only with the interests of the men, but also with the interests of the masters. He ventured to say that no one could complain of the even-handed way in which Mr. Lamb had held the scales of justice. No one could have been more impartial, more absolutely independent in his judgment than the gentleman whom they had gathered to honour. He was popular in the best sense—not that he ever gave way or “truckled” to anything that was at all questionable, but that he supported everything that was manly, businesslike and fair. He was loved by those who were his equals. He was loved by those who were his inferiors. Mr. Lamb, in reply, said that he and his father before him had been connected with the coal trade from the year 1771. The pitmen were always his friends. Even in the old days, the pitmen were not only faithful servants, but good friends, provided they were being treated fairly.

Mr. Lamb had been for more than fifty years also a justice of the peace for the county of Durham, and, as senior magistrate for the Gateshead district of the East Chester Ward was chairman of the Bench. At the Petty Sessions held so recently as Thursday, December 5, an illuminated address was presented to him from his brother magistrates, congratulating him upon having completed fifty years’ service as a magistrate.*

The North-country has lost a giant intellect, the pitman mourns a powerful friend, the poor are poorer by the death of a whole-hearted benefactor, a genial presence has been withdrawn from our midst, but the memory of a life of true Christian example will live for many years to come.

Tall, upright, well-built, and active till the last, Mr. R. O. Lamb was a typical English squire whom no one would have dreamed had lived so long and so strenuous a life. His ready smile warmed the heart of rich and poor alike, but his high fore-head, heavy eye-brows, firm mouth and chin bespoke the iron will and business capacity which had, during the past half-century, raised the Cramlington Coal Company to its present position of eminence.

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* *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*, December 28th, 1912.

† *Northern Weekly Leader*, December 28th, 1912.

His younger and only surviving son, Everard Joseph Lamb (born August 21st, 1885), married Miss Marjorie O'Brien in 1909, and was killed in action on November 1st, 1914, leaving no issue. A Northumberland miner in his regiment wrote of him that he was "a brave man and was worshipped by his men." His death was not only a great grief to his immediate family and to his many friends and fellow-workers: it was also a serious loss to the Lamb family as a whole, and to the coal trade of the north of England. To Everard Lamb they had looked to carry on the honourable tradition of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather in the business world of the north. More nearly than any other member of the family he resembled them in his work and character. He had the same personal geniality, the same devotion to business, the same reputation for sound judgment and upright and honourable dealing. Like them he was trained to business from his youth up, and showed himself extraordinarily level-headed therein from a very early age. The motto which at his coming-of-age celebration he said he would wish to take for his own—"Be just and fear not"—was assuredly carried out in his life.

Information has also been collected with regard to the following families, who inter-married with the Lamb family: the EATON, MAUDE, WILSON, WESTBROOK, MICHAEL, WALDIE, ORMSTON, PRINGLE, HUNTER and FEAD families.



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Pedigree of the Lamb Family

